

ACR #1 – Open a musk ox hunt in eastern Units 26A and 26B with season dates of August 1-March 15, and a quota of five muskoxen.

SUBMITTED BY: North Slope Fish and Game Management Committee.

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

5 AAC 85.050(a)(3) Hunting seasons and bag limits for musk oxen.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

Unit 26B muskox hunting has been closed since 2006 because the population had declined to 200 muskoxen. Residents of Nuiqsut and other residents of Unit 26A had opportunity to hunt muskoxen in eastern Unit 26A and Unit 26B during the 1990s and in the 2000s until 2006, with Tier I (registration) and Tier II permits. This opportunity provided an important resource for subsistence, and residents of Nuiqsut would like to see this opportunity again as they have observed muskoxen within reasonable travelling distance and believe the population objective has been met.

The population of musk oxen in Unit 26B has met its management objective of 300 animals which is large enough to allow the harvest of up to five musk oxen. During 2018-2021, the population increased from 285 to 319 muskoxen, indicating a moderate increase. In 2021, the population was slightly higher than the management objective of 300 muskoxen. When the Board of Game (BOG) met in March 2020, it was not known what the population trend was. New population survey information in 2020 (298 muskoxen) and 2021 (319 muskoxen) indicated the population trend has slightly increased since 2018. Based on the management objective of 300 muskoxen, it appears there is opportunity to harvest muskoxen in Unit 26B and eastern Unit 26A.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

Open a musk ox hunt in eastern GMU 26A and 26B with season dates of August 1- March 15, and a quota of five muskoxen.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1) To correct an error in regulation.

N/A

2) To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.

N/A

3) Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?

N/A

4) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?

Yes, the trend of the population was unknown in March 2020 when the Board of Game met to discuss Proposal 77. Since then, two more years of population surveys have been conducted and indicate there was a modest increase in the population during 2018-2021; and in 2021, population surveys demonstrated that the population estimate of 319 slightly exceeded the population objective of 300 muskoxen set by ADF&G and the BOG

- 5) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?**

N/A

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

There will be opportunity lost to hunters prior to the next Interior and Eastern Arctic Region Board of Game meeting which is scheduled for spring 2024 (resulting in the earliest season opening fall 2025). This is potentially three years of lost opportunity.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

The population management objective set forth by the ADF&G BOG for harvestable surplus has been achieved.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

North Slope Fish and Game Management Committee.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.

N/A