



## Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 - 6199



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOREST SERVICE

JULY 25 2024

In Reply Refer To  
OSM.24093

Robert "Charlie" Wright, Sr., Chair  
Eastern Interior Alaska  
Subsistence Regional Advisory Council  
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503 - 6199

Dear Chair Wright:

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) met on April 2-5, 2024, in Anchorage, Alaska, to consider proposed changes to Federal subsistence management regulations for the harvest of wildlife on Federal Public Lands in Alaska and wildlife closure reviews. This letter is to provide a report on the actions taken by the Board on proposals and closure reviews affecting Federally qualified subsistence users.

Section 805(c) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) provides that the Board will accept the recommendations of a Subsistence Regional Advisory Council(s) (Council(s)) regarding take unless, (1) the recommendation is not supported by substantial evidence, (2) the recommendation violates recognized principles of fish and wildlife management, or (3) adopting the recommendation would be detrimental to the satisfaction of subsistence needs. When a Council(s)' recommendation is not adopted, the Board is required by Secretarial regulations to set forth the factual basis and reasons for the decision.

The Board acted on 36 proposals and 18 closure reviews during the 2024-26 wildlife regulatory cycle. The Board agreed with the recommendations of the Councils, in whole or with modifications, on 34 of 36 proposals. The Board deferred one proposal WP24-01 until the August 2024 Board work session. The Board accepted the recommendations of the Councils on all the wildlife closure reviews, voting to maintain status quo on 15 of them. The Board also acted on fisheries request for reconsideration RFR22-01, opposing the request.

Details of these actions and the Boards' deliberations are contained in the meeting transcriptions. Copies of the transcripts may be obtained by calling toll free number 1-800-478-1456 and are available online at the Federal Subsistence Management Program website, <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence>.

The Board uses a consensus agenda on those proposals and closure reviews where there is agreement among the affected Council(s), a majority of the Interagency Staff Committee, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game concerning a proposed regulatory action. These proposals and closure reviews were deemed non-controversial and did not require a separate discussion. The consensus agenda contained two closure reviews affecting the Eastern Interior Alaska Region, for which the Board took actions consistent with your Council’s recommendations as follows: The Board *retained status quo* for **WCR24-35**, which retained the closure to caribou hunting by non-federally qualified users in the southeastern portion of Unit 12 occupied by the Chisana Caribou Herd, and *retained status quo* for **WCR24-42**, which retained the closure to caribou hunting by all users in the southwestern portion of Unit 12 occupied by the Mentasta Caribou Herd.

The remaining six proposals and one closure review affecting the Eastern Interior Alaska Region appeared on the non-consensus agenda. For two of the proposals and one closure review, the Board took action consistent with the Council’s recommendations. The Board *adopted with modification* **WP24-32**, which extended the Federal marten trapping season in Units 20E and 25B from November 1–February 28 to November 1–March 15. The Board *adopted* **WP24-33**, which extended the fall moose season in Units 25B, 25C, and 25D remainder until October 15; and *retained status quo* on **WCR24-21**, which retains the closure to sheep hunting in the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area in Unit 25A, except by federally qualified subsistence users. Additionally, the Board *rejected* **WP24-36**, which retained the customary and traditional use determination for Dall sheep in Unit 25A for the residents of Kaktovik.

Board actions differed from the Council’s recommendation on two proposals on the non-consensus agenda: **WP24-28** and **WP24-01**. The Board’s actions on these proposals are explained in detail in the enclosed report.

The Board appreciates your Council’s active involvement in and diligence with the regulatory process. The ten Councils continue to be the foundation of the Federal Subsistence Management Program, and the stewardship shown by the Council Chairs and their representatives at the Board meeting was noteworthy.

If you have any questions regarding the summary of the Board’s actions, please contact Brooke McDavid, Council Coordinator, at 907-891-9181 or [brooke\\_mcdavid@fws.gov](mailto:brooke_mcdavid@fws.gov).

Sincerely,



Anthony Christianson, Chair  
Federal Subsistence Board

Enclosure: Federal Subsistence Board 2024 805c Report to the Eastern Interior Council

cc: Federal Subsistence Board  
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

Office of Subsistence Management  
Interagency Staff Committee  
Administrative Record