

2022 Alaska Department of Fish and Game Unit 26A Update

Teshekpuk Caribou Herd:

1) Population Estimate:

- Photocensus conducted on July 10th, 2022 processing projected to have results in December.
- Photocensus Estimate (2017): 55,000-56,000

2) Spring Short Yearling Surveys:

- Observed 2,633 caribou 5.8% were yearlings (April 2022)
- Observed 3,073 caribou 15.5% were yearlings (April 2021)

3) Summer Calving Surveys:

- 45% pregnant (73 females ages 3 or older June 2022)
- 52.7% pregnant (78 females ages 3 or older June 2021)
- 10-year average 68%

4) Adult Female Mortality:

- (2020-2021): 10% (Low 15% is the long term average)
- (2021-2022): 15.6% (Average)

5) Western Arctic & Teshekpuk Caribou Herd Harvest :

- Resident Registration Caribou Permit RC907 (2021): 890 permits total, 688 reports, 295 bulls harvested, 81 cows harvested, 478 hunted and 210 didn't hunt.
- General Season Caribou Harvest Ticket GC000 (2021): 500 permits total, 479 non-resident permits (354 successful), 21 resident permits (10 successful)

- Members of the public are encouraged to get an RC907 caribou registration permit to improve harvest estimate numbers.

6) Caribou Health Assessment:

A new study began in 2022 to look more closely at Teshekpuk caribou health including measurements of body condition, internal and external parasites, trace minerals, stress-related hormones, and a wide range of possible diseases.

Western 26A Musk Ox: There was a minimum count and composition survey conducted in winter of 2022. There were 421 muskoxen observed in Western 26A. There were 70 bulls:100 cows and 61 yearlings:100 cows. There was a federal hunt opened in this area, fall 2022 which issued 6 muskoxen permits. There was a state hunt adopted by the Board of Game for the same area. This Tier II hunt can be applied for this fall and hunt will begin fall 2023.

Colville Moose: The most recent minimum count survey was conducted in 2021 and the minimum count was 427 moose and 20% of those were short yearlings with 18 sets of twins (4.2%). The moose population is steadily increasing. Minimum counts are conducted once every three years and trend counts are conducted annually in 2022 there were 227 total, 19% yearlings, 7 sets of twins (3%). 2020 212 total 20% yearlings 10 sets (4.7%).