

The Board adopted two proposals resulting in the following changes in the regulations found in §§ \_\_.25 and \_\_.26, which affect residents of all Regions.

- In § \_\_.25, added a definition for “field”.
- In § \_\_.25, established a Statewide designated hunter program for subsistence harvest of moose, deer, and caribou, subject to unit-specific provisions.
- In § \_\_.26, established a Statewide provision for the taking of wildlife for use in traditional funerary or mortuary ceremonies.

#### *Southeast Region*

The Board adopted seven proposals affecting residents of the Southeast Region resulting in the following change to the regulations found in § \_\_.26.

- Revised the brown bear seasons in a portion of Unit 4.
- Expanded the deer season in Unit 2 and closed Prince of Wales Island for part of the season to non-Federally qualified users.
- Expanded a hunt area for deer on Kupreanof Island in Unit 3.
- Reduced the harvest limit for goat and closed portions of Unit 1(A) and (B).
- Revised the season and instituted a permit requirement for moose in Unit 1(A).
- Revised the season and provided a closure mechanism for wolf hunting in Unit 2.

#### *Southcentral Region*

The Board adopted three proposals affecting residents in the Southcentral Region resulting in the following changes to the regulations found in § \_\_.26.

- Expanded a season for brown bear in Unit 11.
- Revised the harvest regulations for caribou in Unit 13.
- Established a specific designated hunter program for moose in Unit 6.

The Board also expanded the harvest dates for the take of a moose for the Batzulnetas Culture Camp based on concerns related to the condition of the trail providing access to the camp.

Additionally, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, used its delegated authority to adjust lynx seasons and harvest limits consistent with the ADF&G Lynx Harvest Management Strategy. The Office of Subsistence Management, in May 2002, exercised this authority and adjusted the lynx harvest limits in Units 6, 14, and 16.

#### *Bristol Bay Region*

The Board adopted four proposals affecting residents in the Bristol Bay

Region resulting in the following changes to the regulations found in § \_\_.26.

- Revised the harvest limit and closure conditions for caribou in a portion of Unit 17.
- Deleted the winter antlerless hunt and shifted the winter season for moose in a portion of Unit 9(C).
- Increased the harvest limit for wolves in Units 9 and 17.
- Increased the trapping season and harvest limit for beaver in Units 9 and 17.

#### *Yukon/Kuskokwim Region*

The Board adopted one proposal affecting residents of the Yukon/Kuskokwim Region resulting in the following change to the regulations found in § \_\_.26.

- Included a requirement for meat of the front and hind quarters of moose remain on the bone until removed from the field in a portion of Unit 18.

#### *Western Interior Region*

The Board adopted seven proposals affecting residents of the Western Interior Region resulting in the following change to the regulations found in § \_\_.26.

- Included a requirement for meat of the front and hind quarters and ribs of moose remain on the bone until removed from the field in Unit 21 and for meat of the front and hind quarters and ribs of moose and caribou remain on the bone until removed from the field in Unit 24.
- Deleted the winter antlerless hunt and reduced the winter season length for moose in a portion of Unit 19(A).
- Reduced the fall season length for moose in Unit 19(C).
- Expanded the coyote hunting season in Units 19, 21, and 24.
- Increased the harvest limit for wolf in Unit 24.
- Increased the harvest limit for wolverine in Unit 24.

#### *Seward Peninsula Region*

The Board adopted one proposal affecting residents of the Seward Peninsula Region resulting in the following change to the regulations found in § \_\_.26.

- Opened a portion of two subunits for caribou in Unit 22.

#### *Eastern Interior Region*

The Board adopted nine proposals affecting residents of the Eastern Interior Region resulting in the following changes to the regulations found in § \_\_.26.

- Established a community harvest limit for black bear and provided for use of fall bait stations in Unit 25(D).

- Revised the season for brown bear in Units 25(A) and (B).

- Deleted the fall cow season for caribou in a portion of Unit 25(C).
- Revised the harvest limit and the season dates for moose in a portion of Unit 12.
- Revised the description of a special hunt area for moose in Unit 20.
- Expanded the season for moose in a portion of Unit 20(F).
- Expanded the season and method of take for beaver in portions of Units 12 and 20(E).
- Increased the harvest limit and expanded the season for coyote in Units 12, 20, and 25.
- Inserted trap and snare restrictions for coyote in Units 12 and 20(E).

#### *North Slope Region*

The Board adopted one proposal affecting residents of the North Slope Region resulting in the following change to the regulations found in § \_\_.26.

- Revised the harvest regulations and provided for designated hunting for muskox in Unit 26(C).

These final regulations reflect Board review and consideration of Regional Council recommendations and public comments. All Board members have reviewed this rule and agree with its substance. Because this rule relates to public lands managed by an agency or agencies in both the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior, identical text would be incorporated into 36 CFR part 242 and 50 CFR part 100.

#### **Administrative Procedure Act Compliance**

The Board finds that additional public notice under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) for this final rule is unnecessary, and contrary to the public interest. The Board has provided extensive opportunity for public input and involvement in excess of standard APA requirements, including participation in multiple Regional Council meetings, additional public review and comment on all proposals for regulatory change, and opportunity for additional public comment during the Board meeting prior to deliberation. Additionally, an administrative mechanism exists (and has been used by the public) to request reconsideration of the Board's decision on any particular proposal for regulatory change. Over the 12 years the Program has been operating, no benefit to the public has been demonstrated by delaying the effective date of the regulations. A lapse in regulatory control could seriously affect the continued viability of wildlife populations, adversely impact future subsistence opportunities for rural