



# NEWS RELEASE

## National Park Service

### Western Arctic National Parklands, Nome, Alaska

For Immediate Release  
October 10, 2012

Contact: Ken Adkisson (907) 443-6104

### **National Park Service Closes Federal Subsistence Muskox Hunt (FX2208) in Unit 22D Remainder**

The National Park Service announces that it is closing the Federal Subsistence muskox hunt (FX2208) in Unit 22D Remainder (the American and Agiapuk River drainages) effective October 10, 2012 at 11:59 p.m. The harvest quota for FX2208 has been exceeded by recent illegal harvest and the hunting season is being closed to conserve the Seward Peninsula muskox population. No further muskox hunting or harvest within the Unit 22D Remainder hunt area is warranted.

The overall allowable harvest for the Unit 22D Remainder hunt area was set for this year at 7 bull muskoxen. Acting on a report, Alaska Wildlife troopers confirmed that at least 7 muskoxen (2 bulls and 5 cows) from the muskoxen within the hunt area were shot and left near Brevig Mission during September 2012. The 2012 spring Seward Peninsula muskoxen population survey documented a population wide 23% decline since 2010. The subunit estimate for Unit 22D indicated a 28% decline during the same time period. In response to the decline in the population, a conservative harvest management strategy was adopted to promote herd growth and rebuild depleted bull: cow ratios in the population.

Harvest quotas in this hunt area are managed cooperatively with the State of Alaska, and a similar season closure for the State muskox hunt (TX102) within the Unit 22D Remainder hunt area has been announced by ADF&G. State (TX102) and Federal (FX2206) muskox hunts within the Unit 22D Kuzitrin River hunt area are not affected by this announcement.

For more information contact Ken Adkisson at (907) 443-6104 or 1-800-471-2353.

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