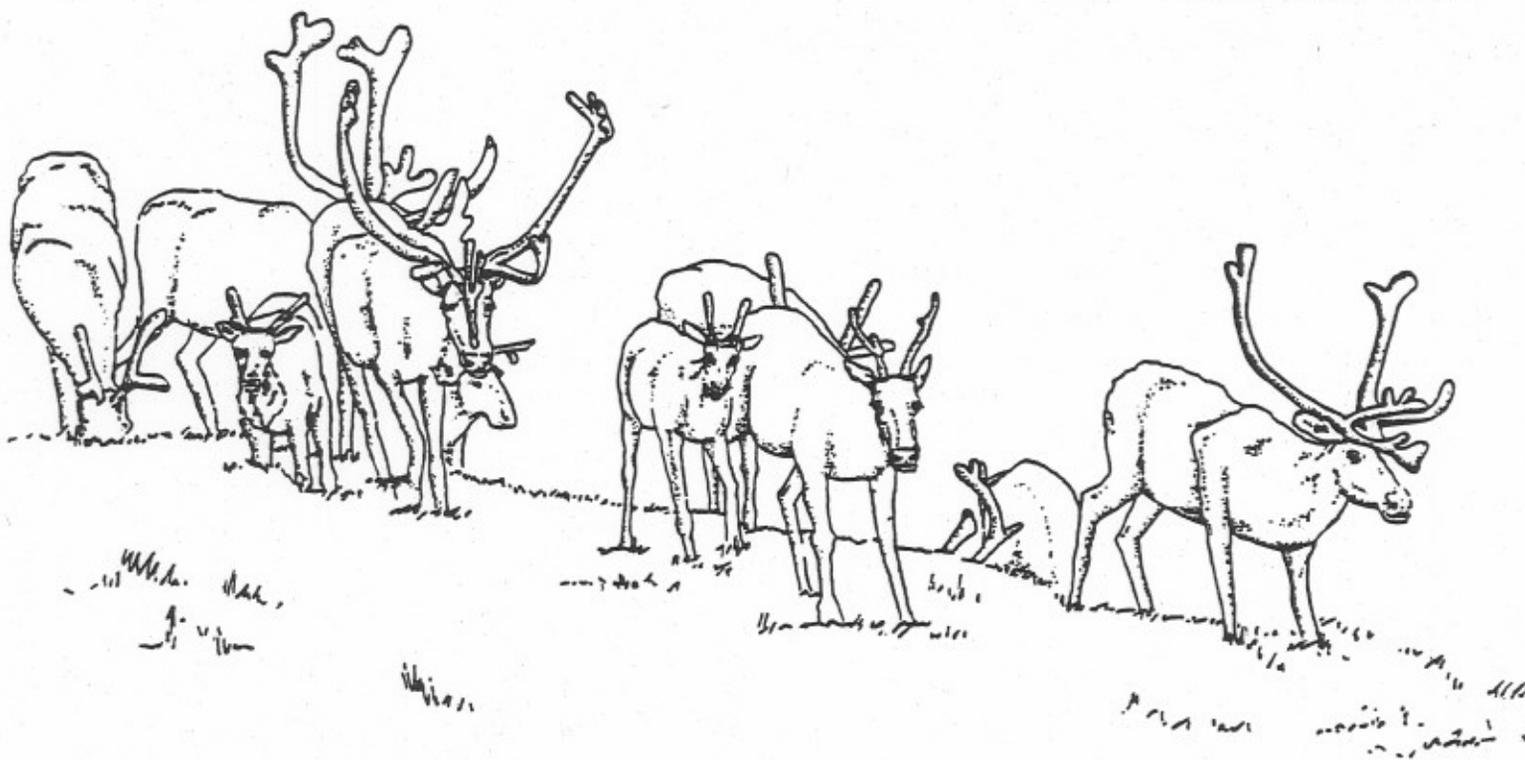


Subsistence Management

for
Federal Public Lands
in Alaska



Record of
Decision



Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



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

FOREST SERVICE

Dear Reader:

Enclosed is the Record of Decision (ROD) on Subsistence Management for Federal Public Lands in Alaska. The decision by Secretary of the Interior, Manuel Lujan, Jr., and concurred in by the USDA-Forest Service, is to implement Alternative IV as identified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with modifications.

This ROD documents that decision and presents reasons for selecting this course of action and what alternatives were considered. Prior to this decision, a final EIS was prepared pursuant to Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

This decision is based on public comment received, the analysis contained in the EIS, and the recommendations of the Federal Subsistence Board (Board) and the Department of the Interior's Subsistence Policy Group.

The first modification to Alternative IV is to increase the number of regions and regional advisory councils from eight, as set forth in the proposed action in the EIS, to ten. These regions and councils would more closely recognize the fish and wildlife and cultural differences within the existing State regions, while at the same time balancing population and community representation better than in the original Alternative IV. This change would also increase the number of regional liaisons to the Board to ten.

The second modification is to the rural determination process in Alternative IV. The change consists of including a five-year waiting or grace period as described and analyzed under Alternative II of the EIS. The impacts to a community or area in the transition from rural to non-rural would be reduced.

The final EIS and a summary were distributed to the public in late February, 1992. An Environmental Protection Agency notice of the filing of the final EIS was published in the Federal Register on February 28, 1992.

The final EIS describes four alternatives for developing a Federal subsistence management program in Alaska and examines the

environmental consequences of these alternatives. It also describes the major issues associated with Federal subsistence management that were identified through public meetings, hearings, and staff analysis.

A summary of public comment on the draft EIS and the responses to those comments is included in the final EIS, Volume I, Chapter V. Comments received on the range of alternatives that were presented in the draft were taken into account during the development of the final EIS.

In addition to presenting alternatives for Federal subsistence management, the final EIS contains an evaluation on subsistence uses and needs, as specifically required by Section 810 of ANILCA.

Proposed regulations (Subparts A, B, and C) that will implement the preferred alternative were included in the final EIS and the summary as appendices. They were also published as a separate document in the Federal Register on January 30, 1992. After the incorporation of public comment, all subparts of the Federal subsistence management regulations will be published as a final rulemaking in June, 1992.

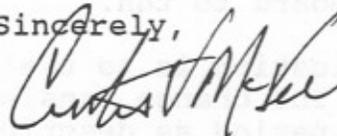
For additional copies of this ROD, the final EIS, or additional information, please write to:

Federal Subsistence Board
c/o U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
1011 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Information is also available by calling the Office of Subsistence Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, at 800-478-1456 or in Anchorage 271-2326. Hearing impaired may call 786-3487.

Thank you for your interest and involvement in the Federal subsistence management program.

Sincerely,



Chair, Federal Subsistence Board

Enclosure

RECORD OF DECISION
SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT
FOR FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS IN ALASKA

1992

