



# Unit 23 / Hunting

(See Unit 23 Kotzebue Sound map)

**Unit 23** consists of Kotzebue Sound, Chukchi Sea, and Arctic Ocean drainages from (and including) the Goodhope River drainage to Cape Lisburne.

## Special Provisions

- The **Noatak Controlled Use Area** is closed for the period Aug. 25–Sept. 15 to the use of aircraft in any manner either for hunting of an ungulate, bear, wolf, or wolverine, or for transportation of hunters or harvested species. This does not apply to the transportation of hunters or parts of ungulate, bear, wolf, or wolverine by regularly scheduled flights to communities by carriers that normally provide scheduled air service. The Noatak Controlled Use Area consists of that portion of Unit 23 in a corridor extending five miles on either side of the Noatak River beginning at the mouth of the Noatak River, and extending upstream to the mouth of Sapun Creek.
- You may hunt brown bear by State registration permit in lieu of a resident tag in Unit 23 if you have a State registration permit prior to hunting. Aircraft may not be used in any manner for brown bear hunting under the authority of a brown bear State registration permit, including transportation of hunters, bear, or parts of bear. However, this does not apply to transportation of bear hunters or bear parts by regularly scheduled flights to and between communities by carriers that normally provide scheduled service to this area, nor does it apply to transportation of aircraft to or between publicly owned airports. See page 20 for bear sealing requirements.
- Caribou may be taken from a boat moving under power in Unit 23.
- Swimming caribou may be taken with a firearm using rimfire cartridges.
- For the Baird and DeLong Mountain sheep hunts—A Federally qualified subsistence user (recipient) may designate another Federally qualified subsistence user (designated hunter) to take sheep on their behalf, unless the recipient is a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. The designated hunter must get a designated hunter permit and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for only one recipient in the course of a season and may have no more than two harvest limits in their possession at any one time.
- A snowmachine may be used to position a hunter to select individual caribou for harvest provided that the animals are not shot from a moving snowmachine.
- A Federally qualified subsistence user (recipient) may designate another Federally qualified subsistence user (designated hunter) to take muskoxen on their behalf, unless the recipient is a member of a community operating under a community harvest system. The designated hunter must get a designated hunter permit, and must return a completed harvest report. The designated hunter may hunt for any number of recipients, but have no more than two harvest limits in their possession at any one time.
- **National Park Service (NPS)** areas—For subsistence use, national parks and monuments are open only to NPS qualified subsistence users. Subsistence users must be local rural residents of NPS areas. For more information, contact the NPS office in Anchorage at (907) 644-3509.

CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
<b>BLACK BEAR</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural residents of Unit 23, Alatna, Allakaket, Bettles, Evansville, Galena, Hughes, Huslia, and Koyukuk</li> </ul>	3 bear	July 1–June 30
<b>BROWN BEAR</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rural residents of Units 21 and 23</li> </ul> <p>Contact ADF&amp;G at 1-800-478-3420 for State permit details.</p>	Unit 23—1 bear by State registration permit	Aug. 1–May 31
<b>CARIBOU</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unit 23—Rural residents of Units 21D (west of the Koyukuk and Yukon rivers), 22, 23, 24 (only residents of Wiseman), 26A, and Galena.</li> </ul>	15 caribou per day; however, cow caribou may not be taken May 16–June 30	July 1–June 30

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CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION (continued)	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
<b>MOOSE</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 23—Rural residents of Unit 23</li> </ul>	Unit 23, that portion north and west of and including the Singoalik River drainage, and all lands draining into the Kukpuk and Ipewik rivers—1 moose; no person may take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf.	July 1–Mar. 31
	Unit 23, that portion lying within the Noatak River drainage—1 moose; however, antlerless moose may be taken only from Nov. 1–Mar. 31; no person may take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf.	Aug. 1–Mar. 31
	Unit 23 remainder—1 moose; no person may take a calf or a cow accompanied by a calf.	Aug. 1–Mar. 31
<b>MUSKOX</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Unit 23 south of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River drainage—Rural residents of Unit 23 south of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River drainage.</li> <li>Unit 23 remainder—Rural residents of Unit 23 east and north of the Buckland River drainage</li> </ul>	Unit 23 south of Kotzebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River drainage—1 muskox by Federal permit or State Tier II permit; however, cows may only be taken during the period Jan. 1–Mar. 15.  <i>Federal public lands are closed to the taking of muskox except by Federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations. Annual harvest quotas and any needed closures for Unit 23 will be announced by the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands, in consultation with ADF&amp;G and BLM.</i>	Aug. 1–Mar. 15
	Unit 23 Cape Krusenstern National Monument—1 bull by Federal permit. Cape Krusenstern National Monument is closed to the taking of muskoxen, except by resident zone community members with permanent residence within the Monument or the immediately adjacent Napaktuktuk Mountain area, south of 67°05'N. Lat., and west of 162°30'W. Long. hunting under these regulations.	Aug. 1–Mar. 15
	Unit 23 remainder	No Federal open season
<b>SHEEP</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rural residents of Unit 23 north of the Arctic Circle and Point Lay.</li> </ul> <p><i>Federal designated hunter permits for the Baird Mountains and Delong Mountains sheep hunts are available from the local Federal land manager listed in the directory at the end of this book.</i></p>	Unit 23 south of Rabbit Creek, Kyak Creek and the Noatak River, and west of the Cutler and Redstone Rivers (Baird Mountains)—1 sheep by Federal registration permit. The total allowable harvest of sheep is 21, of which 15 may be rams and 6 may be ewes.  <i>Federal public lands are closed to the taking of sheep except by Federally qualified subsistence users, hunting under these regulations.</i>	Aug. 10–Apr. 30  If the allowable harvest levels are reached before the regular season closing date, the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands will announce an early closure.

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CUSTOMARY & TRADITIONAL USE DETERMINATION (continued)	HARVEST LIMITS	OPEN SEASONS
SHEEP (continued)	Unit 23 north of Rabbit Creek, Kyak Creek and the Noatak River, and west of the Aniak River (DeLong Mountains)—1 sheep by Federal registration permit. The total allowable harvest of sheep for the DeLong Mountains is 8, of which 5 may be rams and 3 may be ewes.	Aug. 10–Apr. 30 If the allowable harvest levels are reached before the regular season closing date, the Superintendent of the Western Arctic National Parklands will announce an early closure.
	Unit 23 remainder (Schwotka Mountains)—1 ram with $\frac{7}{8}$ curl horn or larger	Aug. 10–Sept. 20
	Unit 23 remainder (Schwotka Mountains)—1 sheep	Oct. 1–Apr. 30
<b>BEAVER</b>		
• All rural residents	No limit.	July 1–June 30
<b>COYOTE</b>		
• All rural residents	2 coyotes	Sept. 1–Apr. 30
<b>FOX, ARCTIC</b> (Blue and White Phase)		
• All rural residents	No limit.	Sept. 1–Apr. 30
<b>FOX, RED</b> (including Cross, Black and Silver Phases)		
• All rural residents	No limit.	Sept. 1–Mar. 15
<b>HARE</b>		
• All rural residents	No limit	July 1–June 30
<b>LYNX</b>		
• All rural residents	2 lynx	Nov. 1–Apr. 15
<b>MUSKRAT</b>		
• All rural residents	No limit.	July 1–June 30
<b>WOLF</b>		
• Rural residents of Units 6, 9, 10 (Unimak Island only), 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, and Chickaloon	15 wolves	Oct. 1–Apr. 30
<b>WOLVERINE</b>		
• All rural residents	1 wolverine	Sept. 1–Mar. 31
<b>GROUSE</b>		
• Rural residents of Units 11, 13, 15, 16, 20D, 22, 23, and Chickaloon	15 grouse per day, 30 in possession	Aug. 10–Apr. 30
<b>PTARMIGAN</b>		
• Rural residents of Units 11, 13, 15, 16, 20D, 22, 23, and Chickaloon	20 ptarmigan per day, 40 in possession	Aug. 10–Apr. 30