

**NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
RESOLUTION 21-18**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE NORTHWEST
ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY SUPPORTING
WILDLIFE SPECIAL ACTION (WSA) 21-01.**

WHEREAS: the Northwest Arctic Borough is the home rule regional government for Northwest Alaska; and

WHEREAS: the Borough's residents live within Game Units 23 and 26A, and rely on the customary and traditional subsistence harvest of caribou and moose from within those Units to fulfill their food security, nutritional, and cultural needs; and

WHEREAS: Title 8 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA, 16 U.S.C. § 3111 *et seq.*) provides a priority for rural residents to engage in subsistence hunting and fishing for customary and traditional uses on federal public lands, including those located in Game Management Units 23 and 26A; and

WHEREAS: in November 2020, the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council (NWRAC) expressed concerns that the scarcity of caribou and moose within Units 23 and 26A during the fall of 2020 prevented federally qualified users from meeting their subsistence needs; and

WHEREAS: in February 2021, the NWRAC submitted special action request WSA 21-01 to the Federal Subsistence Board to temporarily close public lands in Game Management Units 23 and 26A between August 1 and September 30, 2021 to the harvest of caribou and moose by non-federally qualified users; and

WHEREAS: the NWRAC believed WSA 21-01 is necessary to prioritize subsistence uses of moose and caribou within Units 23 and 26A by limiting hunting competition from non-federally qualified users who are increasingly competing with federally qualified subsistence users because of the later migrations in caribou and the need to limit hunting on declining moose populations in the region; and

WHEREAS: the Borough supports WSA 21-01 and believes that it is necessary to provide Borough residents with a meaningful preference to engage in their customary and traditional subsistence harvest of caribou and

moose within Units 23 and 26A, and to protect their health, safety, and food security.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORTHWEST ARCTIC BOROUGH ASSEMBLY: the Borough supports WSA 21-01, a special action request to temporarily close public lands in Game Management Units 23 and 26A between August 1 and September 30, 2021 to the harvest of caribou and moose by non-federally qualified users.

PASSED AND ADOPTED THIS 27th DAY OF APRIL 2021.



Nathan Hadley, Jr., Assembly President

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 27th DAY OF APRIL 2021.



Lucy S. Nelson, Mayor

SIGNED AND ATTESTED TO THIS 27th DAY OF APRIL 2021.



Helena Hildreth, Borough Clerk

ATTEST:

