

Deadline extended for Yukon Delta wildlife refuge

The closing date for public comment on the federal government's draft plan for the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge has been extended to July 22.

The proposed plan addresses a number of important fish and wildlife management issues, including the declining populations of four species of geese that nest in the 19.6 million acre refuge.

The plan also deals with reindeer grazing and the introduction of musk oxen to the refuge.

Other aspects of the proposed plan include the designation of additional wilderness, recreation use management, inholdings, possible oil and gas development within the refuge, development next to the refuge, and subsistence and cultural considerations.

Written comments should be sent to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1011 E. Tudor Road, Anchorage AK 99503 before July 22. a limited number of copies of the complete plan are available from the Service at that address.

According to officials, the comment period was extended because of a delay in publication of a notice in the Federal Register.

For more information, contact Bill Knauer in Anchorage at 786-3399.