

102 - Nonresident caribou in the Nelchina

RC 025

It is time to have a nonresident hunt in the Nelchina...

There will be about 20,000 resident hunters this year. This proposal suggest 10% of the current drawing tags which will be about 2.5% of the total hunters.

Bruce testified that ADF&G just turned back 2 million in P-R funds. This proposal, if fully utilized, Raises Half a million for ADF&G in license and tag fees alone. This would bring back nearly all of the more ADF&G turned back. This does not include the drawing fees that could be hundreds of thousands more.

Of course this does not account for all the monetary and meat contributions that will be made to the Alaskan Economy and direct meat contributions of meat to Alaskan Families.

107 Late 13 & 11 Moose hunt

I intentionally made this proposal super flexible. It has all "up-to" numbers so ADF&G can be conservative if they want.

The hunts would only kick in if the bull/cow ratios are exceeded by 5 buds for three years in a row. I would be open to making this 10 bulls? I would also be open to making this a 50" hunt but my intent is primarily to provide opportunity that can't be provided in any other way.

I want the permits to be issued in local communities ONLY. This would be an opportunity for local people and a few non-local to hunt at a time when it is not crowded. There are 20k caribou hunters in 13 and probably nearly that many moose hunters and many locals do not want to compete in that mess.

This is one of the few proposals I have authored that I really wouldn't change a bit other than small number tweaks

. I think there is a great opportunity here and this proposal is written to allow us to capitalize on this poor unity with almost no risk to the resource.

110 Goats in 13D

I wrote this proposal and got it passed by the Copper Basin AC. It sounds like the discussed recently, late in the evening, at the end of a meeting and decided to withdraw it. These are literally the most remote goats in Alaska and have tons of refugia in the area where people can't get. Sheep have been on draw and there are tons of goat opportunity elsewhere. It's time to try a registration hunt for these goats.

111 Brown bears over bait in the fall in 13

I would support this proposal in all but 13D. 13D is heavily utilized by baited bear hunters in the spring. There are at least 6 guides baiting in the unit and hundreds of resident hunters. I have hunted bears over bait there since 2002 and I believe the pressure is high enough. Brown bears seem to be getting tougher to get.

The rest of 13 could use some more brown bear hunters but it is already crowded with other hunters in the fall.

Asside. Bait also may encourage the take of younger bears.

112 lengthen the spring brown bear season in unit 11

This is a no-brainer. Every unit surrounding GMU 11 goes until the end of June and GMU 11 is actually the most remote and the most restrictive Unit in the area. This will provide a small amount of extra harvest in an area where there is actually room for a lot of extra harvest.

133 Unit 9 bears

This proposal is ill advised as written but there should be a solution to the identified problem. The season should be shortened but it is a good opportunity to shorten the season on the State land where the problem exists. Although there is obviously a conservation issue, there probably does not need to be restrictions on Federal Lands.

137 & 139 Lengthen the season for moose in Unit 17A for residents and non-residents

I learned moose hunting in the interior. Coming out here to hunt moose several years ago was an eye opener. Moose hunting out here is totally different. It is much warmer, crappier weather and much tougher to call moose at the same point in time. Everything happens two weeks later in this part of the world.

The resident season should be later. The nonresident season should also be longer. Nonresidents are limited by drawing to 20 tags. A longer nonresident season will not put more people in the field, it will simply spread them out over time.

If I had my way, the resident season would be the entire month of September and the nonresident season would be Sept 5-25.

140 -141 Allocate some guided moose opportunity in 17 A

The nonresident drawing hunts have 20 tags available in an area bigger than the Kenai Peninsula. There are only two guides authorized in this area and it is predominantly Togiak National Wildlife Refuge. I am the only guide authorized to take moose and I am allowed 4 moose hunters.

The drawing odds have been 45-60% since it was opened a few years back so I had 7 hunters put in this year. 6 of them drew so I need to tell two people they can't come with me. I have a waiting list of well over 20 hunters that I could have apply and likely take the majority of the tags in the area. This might be great to eliminate my competition from DIY nonresidents but it sure would not be an ethical thing to do. I am asking with these two proposals for a system that will provide the tags authorized by the refuge. I am also asking for up-to number that are higher than my authorized number incase the other guide gets a couple moose hunters authorized in his area.

I have provided two options. The advantage of the Registration option, aside from the obvious, it will allow booking hunters the the current year of the hunt. With the drawing scenario, we need to have hunters booked before Dec of the year before the hunt which eliminates the the entire hunt booking show season for the present year.

145 & 147 Mulchatna Caribou

Things have changed since I wrote these proposals three years ago they have been deferred from a few meetings. All the indicators were that the herd was increasing and would accelerate it's increase. It now looks like it is still increasing but possibly much slower than anticipated

mostly due to predation. The animals are healthy and show the signs of an increasing herd but calf recruitment has been low.

At this point I would suggest the board put this hunt on the books but with a threshold to issue permits. I would set this threshold at somewhere in the 30-40k area. 30k is the lower end of the management goal and the herd is thought to be near this lower end. We have not had a good count on this herd in several years. There was no census this year and the last one was conducted when the animals were not very well congregated.

Even now, this herd could handle more than double the actual harvest and continue to grow. There are about 350 caribou reported taken, probably few than that number are also unreported, yet the harvestable surplus is well over 1000 animals while still allowing for herd growth.