

Guidance on Nelchina Caribou Permit Issuance

The department requests clarification and guidance on how many permits to issue for the resident and nonresident drawing hunts for the Nelchina Herd. As a strawman, the department suggests the following.

Herd above objectives. >40,000

The youth hunt will occur (200 permits) and the resident and non-resident draw hunts will occur.

The number of permits to be issued will be equal to the harvestable surplus (quota) less some number of caribou provided by the board that constitutes the threshold for holding drawing hunts. For example, if the quota is 3500 and threshold is 3000, the department will issue all of the youth permits (200), and will issue enough resident and non-resident draw permits expected to achieve the harvest quota.

The board should also provide a threshold for holding the non-resident draw hunt or determine the relative number of permits for the resident and nonresident draws.

Example: resident draw threshold=3000 and quota is 3500. We issue enough drawing permits to harvest 500 caribou which would be about 1500 permits (33% success rates).

The board could specify a minimum number of permits to go to non-residents or what proportion of the permits should go to nonresidents.

Herd less than 40,000

No nonresident draw.

Resident draw calculated as above.