

Note: The Board of Game deferred this proposal as amended from the 2017 Special Meeting on Copper Basin Area Moose and Caribou Hunting. It was previously numbered Proposal 37. The amended proposal applies only to establishing a youth hunt, August 1–5, for caribou in Unit 13.

PROPOSAL 101 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Establish a youth hunting season for caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

~~Some ways to solve this problem would be to extend the season from August 10—March 31 with no closing time.~~

~~Allow a two caribou bag limit for the time frame of October 1—March 31. This would give more of an incentive for hunters to hunt the winter season and not during the season when moose is open at the same time.~~

Another suggestion would be to open a youth hunt from August 1–5 20 which would allow families to be able to give the youths a chance to hunt when the Denali Highway isn't saturated with other hunters. This would also be during a time when the youth aren't in school so they would be given more incentive to hunt early.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I am very concerned about the numbers of hunters on the Denali Highway at the same time. The Denali Highway allows for easy hunting with highway access for hunting of caribou and other game. This then brings a huge safety issue with hunters shooting over other hunters. The whole unit has become more and more saturated over the last three years. The issue comes from the high caribou tags given with Tier I and Tier II over the last few years, community harvest and general harvest all hunting the fall all at the same time.

Another issue is that many kids are being denied the chance to hunt on the Denali Highway. Parents are either not bringing their children or ending their hunts early due to this safety. Many friends voiced their concerns with their children being in an area where hunters are shooting over other hunters. This then discourages our next generation of hunters! The Denali Highway is a great place to bring children since it is an easy area to hunt with lots of support in case there is a need for lodging and food.

PROPOSED BY: Jennifer Bondy (EG-F16-121)
