

PROPOSAL 145 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons a bag limits for caribou. Open a nonresident registration hunt for caribou in Units 9 and 17 as follows:

Unit 9 within the range of the Mulchatna caribou and all of Unit 17

Nonresidents: September 1–30

One bull caribou by registration permit. Up to 200 permits may be issued.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? As of the drafting of this proposal, the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) states: "The harvest of Mulchatna caribou is well below sustainable levels." The Mulchatna caribou herd has started to grow and all indicators are that it is healthy. Unfortunately, it has recently resided predominantly in areas that are difficult to access. A nonresident hunt, limited by registration, should be well within the sustainability of this herd that is currently underutilized. I would suggest a limit of up to 200 tags and ask ADF&G to initially only issue 50 across the entire range of the herd. It is desirable to see this herd continue to grow. Communities within the region have had a difficult time taking the harvestable surplus due to the locations of the animals. Providing a nonresident hunt will result in light harvest and most meat will be left in the communities within the region as is the case in all remote nonresident hunting opportunities.

A similar proposal for a drawing hunt was deferred from the Arctic/Western meeting for Units 18 and 19. This registration permit would be preferable but the drawing is another option.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist

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