

**ACR 5** – Modify the caribou hunt structure for Unit 13 to provide a third option for the Tier I registration permit hunt.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Norm Masneri and family

**CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.**

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limit for caribou.

**WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.** I am a life long Alaskan and have hunted Nelchina caribou prior to and when the state first started managing the caribou with permits. My family started hunting Nelchina caribou in 1962. There have been many changes and the pressure continues to grow as we all know. I do not envy the board in trying to appease all the different groups / users that want to participate in the annual caribou hunt. I believe the requirement to choose August – September, or September – late September was a positive step in trying to reduce overcrowding and increase management ability. I would like to propose that it goes one step further – I believe that we should have three choices that lock us in – the two choices that have already been established and an additional October 20<sup>th</sup> – November 10<sup>th</sup>(ish) --- there are many people who have traditionally hunted in the winter who do not participate in the fall time hunts for many reasons. This year with the diminished count of available caribou there will be no winter season to hunt caribou. Many others and I have relied on the winter hunt exclusively to provide game food for our families. Many issues and circumstances limit us to hunt the winter months only. By only allocating caribou numbers for fall hunts I feel that the unforeseen effect has been to deny those relying on a winter hunt access to caribou that they have traditionally used. I propose that you have that third choice and the duration of the hunt is roughly the same number of days that the fall hunts are. After that date, if there is still a surplus of caribou it is open for everyone who has not filled a tag. In this way, those that hunt in winter will have a quota as those that hunt in the fall have.

**WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?** I believe that we should have three choices that lock us in – the two choices that have already been established and an additional October 20<sup>th</sup> – November 10<sup>th</sup>(ish) option. After that date, if there is still a surplus of caribou it is open for everyone who has not filled a tag.

**STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

- 1) **To correct an error in regulation.** N/A
- 2) **To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.** This regulation's unforeseen effect was that the board did not know there might be times where no winter caribou would be harvested thus not allowing those who rely on it access to them.
- 3) **Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?** N/A

- 4) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?** The lack of a defined winter quota in Unit 13 caribou Tier I / draw season has terminated the ability of those who have traditionally hunted Unit 13 caribou in the winter and who rely on it for their personal use.
- 5) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?** N/A

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?** The board is not looking at Unit 13 for another two years. If action is not taken to correct the unforeseen problem created, then many who rely solely on the winter hunt will be negatively affected until the next board meeting in two years.

**STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.** There is an allocation in my proposal, however, as it is obviously visible the Unit 13 caribou hunt is nothing but allocations. In saying that, the allocated numbers for caribou are already set forth. This would only delay the taking of a percentage of already allocated caribou. It would not change the allocation numbers to a completely different user group.

**IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.** If this is an allocation proposal then the board, when they allocated caribou numbers for August / September, did not carry it far enough and created an unforeseen imbalance in the quote by excluding draw permit holders who rely solely on a traditional winter hunting opportunity.

**STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.** My family and myself have hunted caribou in the Unit 13 area since 1962. Since then, we have almost exclusively relied on the winter hunt periods. I am a Tier I / draw permit holder.

**STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.** I do not know.