

PROPOSAL 32

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

Allow caribou to be taken east of and including the Nuluk River drainage in Unit 22E as follows:

Most hunters are targeting mature caribou bulls during this time and the possibility of domestic stock reindeer being harvested is very slim. We ask that the Alaska Board of Game to change Unit 22E to say “**east of and including the Nuluk River drainage**” [EAST OF AND INCLUDING THE SANGUICH RIVER DRAINAGE] One bull however, calves may not be taken / harvest ticket / August 1-September 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the Alaska Board of Game does not allow hunting caribou west of the Sanaguich River drainage due to domestic reindeer herds “possibly” being in the area. The concern is domestic reindeer may accidentally be harvested in this area. I believe the differences are distinguishable as the breed is shorter in height, heavier in weight, darker and in most cases is equipped with identification tags (red, green, and yellow Ear Tags). These characteristics makes the reindeer easy to identify, from caribou.

This proposal would be a return to historical resource management of the caribou in Unit 22E that ended back in 2016. The caribou are found in higher areas of the continental divide specifically on the northern side. A huge geographic area that holds these caribou has been closed and if nothing is done hunters will be limited to one third of the area that caribou are frequenting during the set hunting season.

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