

PROPOSAL 54

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

Increase the youth hunting season for caribou in Unit 13 as follows:

Increase the hunting season for Nelchina caribou (YC495) in Unit 13 as follows:

One caribou every regulatory year by youth hunt drawing permit; up to 200 permits may be issued. August 1 - August 9 [5] and **October 21 - March 31**. Nonresidents: No open season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently, the season dates for Unit 13 Nelchina caribou under permit YC495 are August 1 – August 5. The five-day window is rather short. Additionally, CC001, DC485, RC561, and RC562 are open October 21 – March 31 after their first openings, if quotas are not met. Allowing participants in YC495 to participate from August 1 – August 9 and participate in the October 21- March 31 achieves the following:

- Allow for more opportunities for youth hunting participation.
 - Increasing the number of days to August 9 allows for a great window of opportunity for harvest. Herd locations in early August are scattered compared to mid to late September. Depending on year, it may take multiple days to scout an area as there have been no caribou hunters in the field.
 - If the current dates fall within the work week (such as August 1st being a Monday), it does not provide families opportunities to hunt on the weekend. Changing the end of the youth first season to August 9 would guarantee at least one full weekend to allow families to hunt and not take off any time from work.
 - The winter period provides dates such as Thanksgiving break, Winter break, and Spring break for students to hunt and not be taken away from academic commitments and provides greater flexibility for families to plan appropriately.
- Streamline dates for all draw and Tier I permits to have the same second season.
- Increases the amount of harvested caribou to help with desired population management. As stated on the Unit 13 Nelchina Caribou Hotline (at time of writing this), it does not appear that the 2019/2020 harvest quotas will be reached. I know a few families that would have liked to have their youth participate in the winter hunt and it would help with population management.

PROPOSED BY: Tyler Eggen

(HQ-F20-002)
