

 **Proposal 207** **Nelchina caribou**

**Establish a Tier II hunt for Nelchina caribou
in Unit 13**

Department Proposal



Department Recommendation: **SUPPORT**

207-1

1

 **Proposal 207** **Nelchina caribou**

Current Regulations and Management Direction

Customary and Traditional Use: Positive Finding; GMU 12 and 13

Amount Necessary for Subsistence: 600–1,000 caribou

Intensive Management Objectives: established in 1995

- 35,000–40,000 caribou (managed as fall objective)
- 3,000–6,000 harvest

Additional Management Objectives:

- 40 bulls:100 cows; 40 calves:100 cows
- Consistent composition objectives since at least 1992

207-2

2



Proposal 207

Nelchina caribou

Current Regulations: Seasons and Bag Limits

Tier I subsistence hunts:

- RC561: Aug 10–Aug 31; Oct 21–Mar 31; up to 2 caribou per household
- RC562: Sep 1–Sep 20; Oct 21–Mar 31; up to 2 caribou per household
- CC001: Aug 10–Sep 20; Oct 21–Mar 31; up to 2 caribou per household

Resident draw hunts:


- YC495: Aug 1–Aug 5; 1 caribou; up to 200 permits
- DC485: Aug 20–Sep 20; Oct 21–Mar 31; 1 caribou; up to 5,000 permits

Nonresident draw hunts:

- DC475: Aug 20–Sep 20; 1 bull; up to 200 permits

207-3

3



Proposal 207

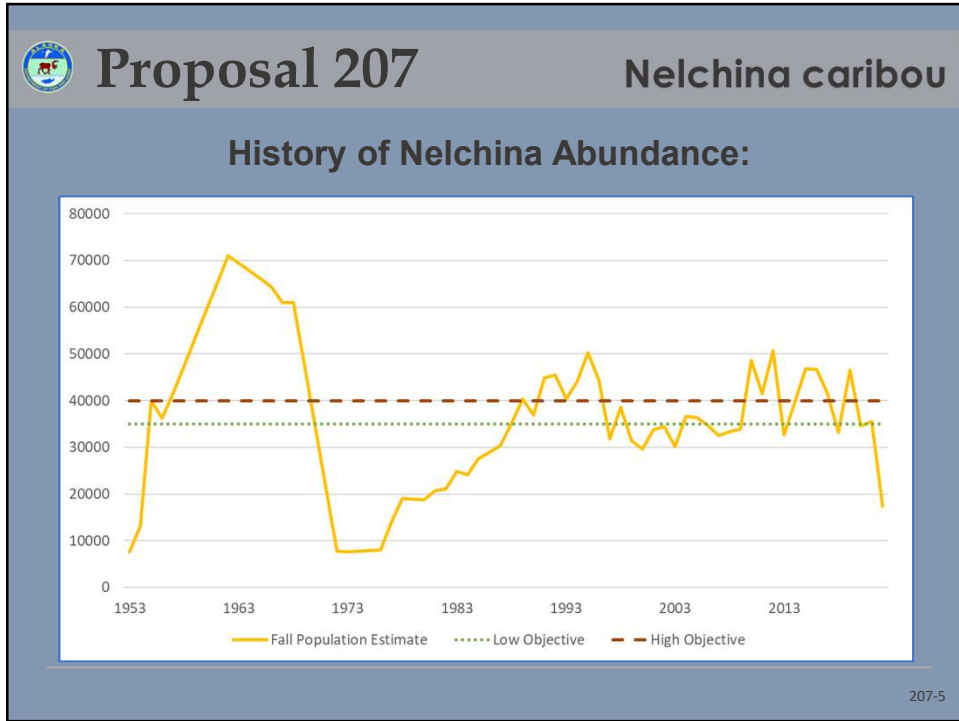
Nelchina caribou

BOG Findings and Legal Requirements:

- Current hunt structure was designed during a period of excess.
- Findings 2019-223-BOG gave direction on when to implement hunts based on Nelchina population status.
 - Tier II hunt *when the caribou population is below management objectives and estimated harvestable surplus is not adequate to meet the lower end of the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence (ANS).*
 - In accordance with AS 16.05.258(b)(4)
- No Tier II hunt currently exists in regulation.

207-4

4



5

Proposal 207 Nelchina caribou


Year	Tier I						Federal Subsistence					
	CC001			RC561/RC562/RC566			FC1302			FC1202		
	Permits	Hunted	Harvest	Permits	Hunted	Harvest	Permits	Hunted	Harvest	Permits	Hunted	Harvest
2014	569	266	144	5,595	3,876	2,268	2,953	1,397	237	116	59	37
2015	659	330	191	7,235	4,817	2,911	3,083	1,564	595	126	75	49
2016	1,214	636	370	8,470	5,738	3,518	3,154	1,533	491	114	47	6
2017	1,004	484	262	8,444	5,219	2,733	3,071	1,526	358	128	36	10
2018 ¹	838	382	168	8,767	3,877	1,060	3,082	1,433	370	88	43	13
2019	811	406	256	5,674	3,540	2,172	2,787	900	102	158	96	55
2020 ¹	818	476	294	6,891	4,473	2,514	2,916	1,195	306	149	79	59
2021 ¹	909	381	178	7,100	2,673	977	2,606	945	220	130	61	28
2022 ¹	827	312	68	5,288	2,143	366	2,264 ²	TBD	119 ²	87 ²	TBD	8 ²
2023	793	TBD	TBD	3,042	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Year	Resident Draw DC480-483/DC485/YC495				Nonresident Draw DC475				Total Combined ⁴		
	Applied ³	Permits	Hunted	Harvest	Applied ³	Permits	Hunted	Harvest	Permits	Hunted	Harvest
2014	19,959	1,000	576	299					10,233	6,174	2,993
2015	22,478	1,001	588	296					12,104	7,374	4,169
2016	13,106	4,999	3,354	1,898					17,951	11,308	6,297
2017	30,655	4,998	3,055	1,534					17,645	10,320	4,920
2018 ¹	38,611	5,000	1,219	260					17,775	6,954	1,887
2019	29,068	599	408	285	-	-	-	-	10,029	5,350	2,892
2020 ¹	46,813	2,200	1,475	931	3,002	50	26	12	13,024	7,724	4,135
2021 ¹	53,254	2,200	796	328	3,300	50	35	18	12,995	4,891	1,761
2022 ¹	44,270	699	367	84	-	-	-	-	9,165 ²	TBD	646 ²
2023	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	TBD	TBD	TBD

¹In these years state seasons were closed by EO when quotas were met for each hunt.
²Federal hunt is ongoing and federal permits may still be issued for 2022.
³Beginning in 2017 it was possible for one individual to submit up to 6 applications for one hunt.
⁴Total combined includes both state and federal as well as additional harvest such as ceremonial harvest, Yukon estimates, and NCH taken in 40mile hunt.

207-6

6

 **Proposal 207** **Nelchina caribou**

Tier II resident hunt recommendation:

Bag limit: 1 caribou by Tier II permit only; provided that the harvestable surplus is fewer than 600 caribou, up to XXXX permits may be issued.

Season Dates:

- August 10–September 20
 - These dates are consistent with recent history for state hunts (since 1999, and in some years prior)
- October 21–March 31
 - This winter season is often closed by EO when the herd is low, as the harvestable surplus is typically reached in the fall.
 - The majority of the herd often leaves the hunt area in the winter, leaving localized bands more vulnerable to overharvest.
 - Winter hunts are an added stressor on bands of caribou attempting to survive until green-up.
 - We recommend these season dates TBA to avoid giving hunters unreasonable expectations for a winter hunt when the herd has low numbers.

207-7

7

 **Proposal 207** **Nelchina caribou**

Establish a Tier II hunt for Nelchina caribou in Unit 13

Department Proposal




Department Recommendation: *SUPPORT*

207-8

8

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C

- Effect of the proposal
 - Close all sheep hunting in unit 19C for 5 years
- Department recommendation
 - **OPPOSE a closure, NEUTRAL on allocation**
- Board generated proposal

9

9

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C

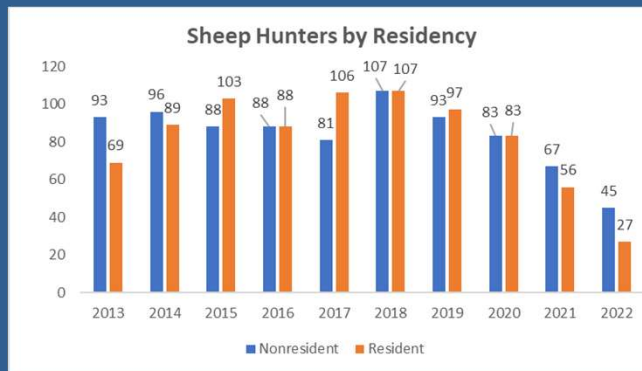
- Current regulations
 - August 1 – August 5 youth hunt by harvest ticket
 - August 10 – September 20 general season harvest ticket
 - October 1 – April 30 winter hunt RS380
- Proposed regulations
 - Close all seasons for 5 years

10

10

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C

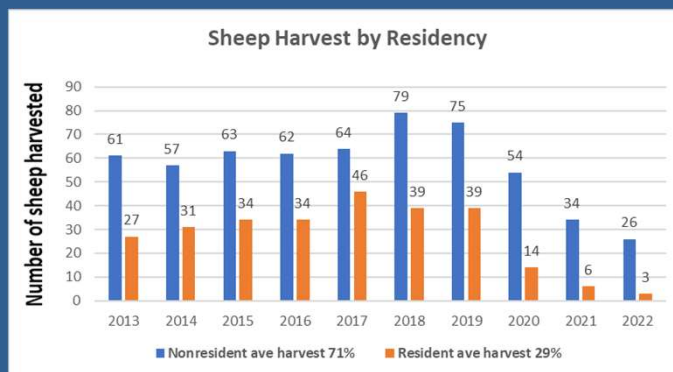


11

11

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C



12

12

Proposal 204
Sheep

19C

Youth Hunt

Year	Harvest
2016	3
2017	5
2018	6
2019	3
2020	2
2021	1
2022	0
Average Harvest	3

13

13

Proposal 204
Sheep

19C

RS380 Winter Hunt

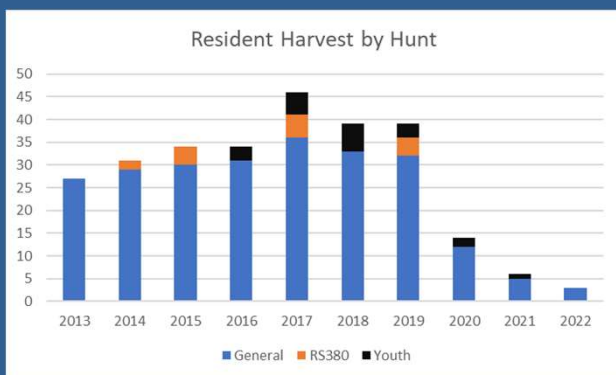
	Ewe Harvest	Ram Harvest	Total Harvest	Total Hunters
RY14	2	0	2	8
RY15	2	2	4	6
RY16	0	0	0	3
RY17	4	1	5	7
RY18	0	0	0	2
RY19	1	3	4	7
RY20 (closed)	0	0	0	0
RY21 (restricted)	0	0	0	0
RY22 (restricted)	0	0	0	2
Average	1	1	2	4

14

14

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C

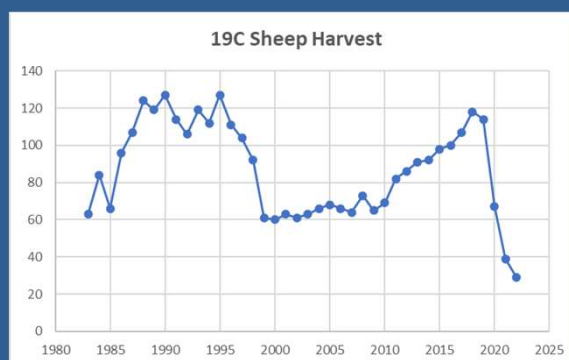


15

15

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C



16

16

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C

Sheep Surveys

- We began consistent surveys in 2010
 - This was the period when sheep harvest began increasing
- 2019 was the first year we observed a decline
 - Sheep harvest did not reflect that
- No survey in 2020 or 2021 due to poor weather
 - 2020 lots of calls concerned about sheep numbers
 - 2020 ACR submitted to close or shorten the sheep season
 - 2021 ACR submitted to implement a nonresident draw

17

17

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C

Sheep Surveys

- Winter 2021/2022 also very difficult
 - Freezing rain on Christmas Day 2021
 - Snow in May 2022 during lambing season
- 2022 Survey Results
 - 5 areas surveyed 436 total sheep
 - Declines 55%-80%
 - 50 lambs or 11%
 - 7 full curl rams or 1.6%

18

18

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C

Amounts Necessary for Subsistence

- Positive C&T determination in Unit 19
 - ANS 1 – 5 sheep
- Winter hunt structured to provide opportunity according to the pattern of customary and traditional use
- In the fall of RY22 residents harvested 3 sheep in 19C

19

19

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C

Additional Considerations

- Hunting closure unlikely to result in population change
- Historically, sheep populations fluctuate
- Sheep carrying capacity unknown
- Closure may displace hunters to other GMUs

20

20

Proposal 204 19C

Sheep

- Effect of the proposal
 - Close all sheep hunting in unit 19C for 5 years
- Department recommendation
 - **OPPOSE a closure, NEUTRAL on allocation**
- Board generated proposal

21

21

Proposal 205 19C

Moose

- Effect of the proposal
 - Create a nonresident draw hunt for moose in the RM653 Farewell hunt area
- Department recommendation
 - **NEUTRAL on allocation, SUPPORT reducing harvest**
- Public proposals
 - Proposals 205, 210 and 211

22

22

Proposal 205

19C

Moose

- Current nonresident regulations
 - Sept 1 – Sept 20 50" or 4 brow tines RM653 hunt area
 - Sept 1 – Sept 20 50" or 4 brow tines 19C remainder HT
- Proposed nonresident regulations (proposal 205)
 - Sept 1 – Sept 20 50" or 4 brow tines draw permit (20 available) in the RM653 Farewell hunt area
 - 19C remainder: no changes

23

23

Proposal 205

19C

Moose

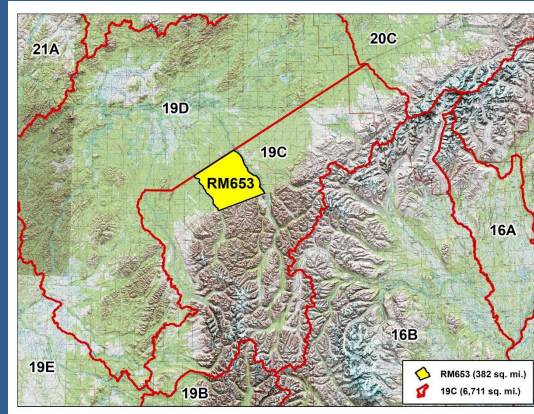
- Proposed nonresident regulations in the Farewell hunt area for proposals 210 and 211
 - Draw permit with no cap recommended (210 and 211)
 - Close nonresident season in RY23 (210 and 211)
 - Shorten season for all hunters to Sept 8 – Sept 17 (211)

24

24

Proposal 205 Moose

19C



25

25

Proposal 205 Moose

19C

Background

- Farewell hunt area very popular
- Unique combination of good access, an extensive trail network and a high density of moose
- Attracts large numbers of hunters

26

26

Proposal 205 Moose

19C

Brief Regulatory History

- 2002 season shortened 5 days from Sept 25th to Sept 20th
- 2004 resident bag limit changed from any bull to 50" or 4 brow tines, or spike/fork
- 2020 Farewell area changed from a harvest ticket to a registration permit to improve harvest reporting

27

27

Proposal 205 Moose

19C

Amounts Necessary for Subsistence

- Unit 19 outside the LVMA 400-700 moose including:
 - 175-225 in Unit 19A
 - 20-24 in Unit 19B

Intensive Management

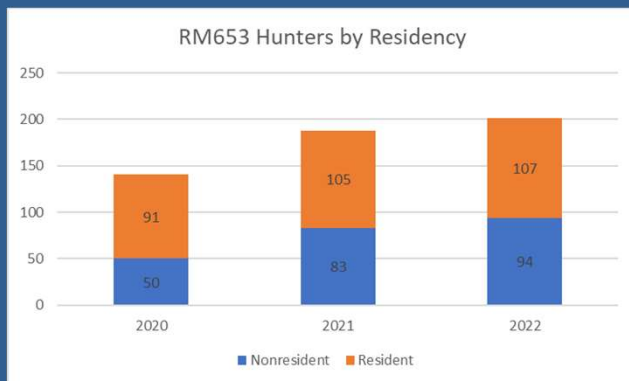
- 19C negative finding

28

28

Proposal 205
Moose

19C

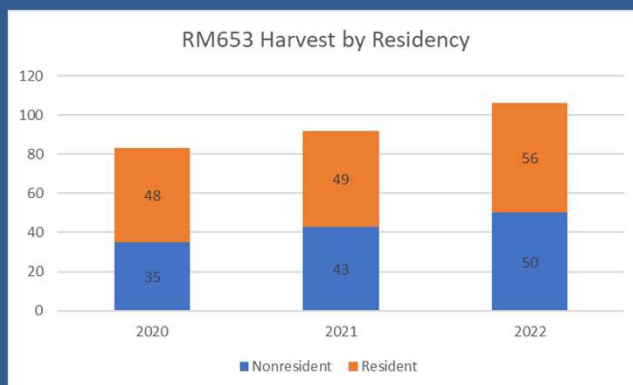


29

29

Proposal 205
Moose

19C



30

30

Proposal 205
Moose

19C

Winter Hunt RM655

- In addition to the fall hunting season there is also a winter moose hunt RM655
 - February 1 – February 28
 - Bag limit any bull
 - No aircraft allowed

- Only 6 moose harvested in last 10 years

31

31

Proposal 205
Moose

19C

Year	Total Moose	Percent Calves	Calves: 100 Cows	Bull: 100 Cows
2017	322	17%	28:100	38:100
2018	544	13%	20:100	40:100
2020	681	13%	19:100	33:100
2021	540	11%	16:100	25:100
2022	465	12%	17:100	28:100

32

32

Proposal 205

19C

Moose

■ Points to consider:

- Bull cow ratios have declined below our management objective
- Bulls are very susceptible to harvest in this area
- If this proposal passes anticipate a 33% reduction in harvest
- If this proposal fails Department will shorten season 5-10 days
- This would likely result in a 25-35% reduction in harvest
- However, this would affect both residents and nonresidents

33

33

Proposal 205

19C

Moose

■ Effect of the proposal

- Create a nonresident draw hunt for moose in the RM653 Farewell hunt area

■ Department recommendation

- **NEUTRAL on allocation, SUPPORT reducing harvest**

■ Public proposal

- Proposals 205, 210 and 211

34

34

Proposal 206 IM

21E

- Effect of the proposal
 - Extend the 21E IM plan for 1 year
- Department recommendation
 - **SUPPORT**
- Department proposal

35

35

Proposal 206 IM

21E

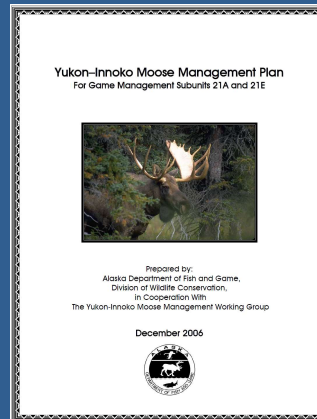
- The current 21E IM plan expires June 30, 2023
- Region III 2023 BOG meeting delayed due to covid
 - Plan is now out of cycle
- Extending one year puts back on cycle
 - Public can decide if they want to submit another plan

36

36

Proposal 206 IM

21E



37

37

Proposal 206 IM

21E

- IM Population Objective 9,000-11,000 moose
 - Current population 9,300 moose

- IM Harvest Objective 550-1,100 Moose
 - Current harvest 200 moose per year

38

38

Proposal 206

21E

IM

- 2-year average of 44 bulls:100 cows
- 2-year average twinning rate 26%

39

39

Proposal 206

21E

IM

- Effect of the proposal
 - Extend the 21E IM plan for 1 year
- Department recommendation
 - **SUPPORT**
- Department proposal

40

40