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We The Nunamiut of Anaktuvuk Pass would like to propose an amendment change to 202; Hunting Seasons and bag limits for caribou for GMU 26A.

Since there is a decline by number in the herds. We as Inupiaq feel that any alteration of the migrating caribou that comes to our Anaktuvuk Pass valley needs to be stopped and not caused to be diverted.

Generations before us were a wise people, settling in Anaktuvuk (where the caribou drop their poop) a place chosen in the heart of migrating caribou to supply the survival of our people throughout the year, food, clothing, tools, shelter, all utilized from the caribou. Our forefathers instilled in us the importance of refraining from a hunt of the first herds, to abstain from north of our pass, as it is likely to divert the caribou out of our valley, causing hardships in all aspects of survival. Who to know this better, than our very own forefathers who roamed the lands, studied the seasons, plants and animals to survive for hundreds of years.

Alaska state law directs the Board of Game and Board of Fisheries to provide a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses first, before providing for other uses of any harvestable surplus of a fish or game population [AS 16.05.258 (b)]. This is often referred to as the "subsistence preference" or sometimes the "subsistence priority."

Alaska state law (16.05.094) also directs the Division of Subsistence to

- Compile existing data and conduct studies to gather existing information, including data from subsistence users, on all aspects of the role of subsistence hunting and fishing in the lives of the residents of the state;
- Quantify the amount, nutritional value, and extent of dependence on food acquired through subsistence hunting and fishing;
- Make information gathered available to the public, appropriate agencies, and other organized bodies. Assist the department, the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game in determining which uses of fish and game, as well as what users and what methods, should be termed subsistence users, uses, and methods;
- Evaluate the impact of state and federal laws and regulations on subsistence hunting and fishing and, when corrective action is indicated, make recommendations to the department;
- Make recommendations to the boards of fisheries and game regarding adoption, amendment, and repeal of regulations affecting subsistence fishing and hunting;
- Participate with other divisions in the preparation of statewide and regional management plans so that those plans recognize and incorporate the needs of subsistence users of fish and game.

For many years, since Sports Hunters are granted allowance to harvest caribou northward of our valley, we strongly feel they are a factor in diverting the caribou from our valley especially during our prime time subsistence hunts July through September. After all, it's the generations before us who spoke of it. We feel the dire need to protect our Traditional Teachings.

We the Nunamiut of Anaktuvuk Pass, ask for the Board of Game to make an amendment on the "Change the Bag Limit" for Non-Resident Hunters to -0- Zero or to "Change their season" to any other month but July through September, to protect our Subsistence Harvest for the upcoming years.