

Date: October 13, 2020

To: Chairman Hoffman and Members of the Board of Game

Subject: Consideration of finding that an emergency exists and adopting temporary emergency regulations to allow subsistence hunters who have filled their bag limit in Unit 13 to be able to participate in the winter registration hunt (RC8676) for caribou in portions of Units 20 and 25C within the Fortymile caribou hunt zones.

From: Board Member Al Barrette

The Board of Game along with the Division of Wildlife Conservation are mandated to manage wildlife resources at sustainable levels, incorporating sustain yield principles.

August 9th, 2020 the Department issued Emergency order No. 03-04-20, to increase the bag limit from one caribou, to two caribou in all zones and a harvest quota of 5,000 for the Fortymile caribou hunt. There are strong indications that FCH is showing high nutritional stress. It is believed this could decline the herd at a significant rate.

Currently, the Division of Wildlife Conservation is reviewing the FCH winter hunt plan and weighing October caribou calves and assessing the health of the herd. It is presumed at this time managers are going to set a harvest quota of 5,000 caribou and a 2 caribou bag limit.

Unit 13 subsistence caribou hunters, household members, and communities are not allowed by regulation to apply for this opportunity even though, they have filled their bag limit for caribou in Unit 13.

With a Board of Game meeting being scheduled some time mid-November, member Burnett and I would like to add FCH and Unit 13 Nelchina caribou to our agenda for that meeting. This addition to the agenda will be based on the data that DWC is collecting now. We want to ensure we comply with AS 44.62 and have these two caribou herds and corresponding regulations 5AAC 92.050(a)(4)(I) and 5AAC 92.072(c)(2)(A), posted on our agenda, if the Board decides it needs to take action at this meeting.

Intent: To amend regulations 5 AAC 92.050(a)(4)(I) and 5 AAC 92.072(c)(2)(A) by emergency to allow those subsistence hunters, household member, and communities an opportunity to hunt the FCH in any of the four zones that are open for the duration of the emergency regulation (120 days from enactment) that have filled their caribou bag limit in Unit 13.

Unit 13 subsistence caribou hunters who were successful in harvesting their bag limit for caribou in Unit 13 should be afforded this winter to participate in the FCH RC867 registration hunt opportunity, to aid in the managers efforts to reach the harvest goal of 5,000 caribou.

Furthermore, the Federal Subsistence Board passed a regulation early this fall, that was a loss of 1.4 million acres of access to take caribou, to non-federally qualified subsistence users.

Before considering the adoption of emergency regulations, the Board of Game will first determine whether this request meets the qualifications of emergency as the regulation (5 AAC 96.625(f)) defines it.