



UNIT 13 CARIBOU HUNTING

For the 2009-10 season, caribou permits will be issued in a very different manner.

Residents of the villages of Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina and Kluti Kaah (Copper Center) will have the option of joining a community harvest program. If they sign up, harvest tickets will be issued in their name to a hunt administrator. He/she will distribute those harvest tickets to hunters who will be allowed to take as many caribou as they have harvest tickets, up to a maximum of 300.

All other Alaska hunters may participate in a Tier I (resident only) hunt. In May, interested applicants will fill out a simple form with basic information, including a list of household members.

Tier I

The number of permits issued will depend on the size of the caribou herd, the anticipated success rate and the desired harvest.

Each year a household applies, it will be awarded one point.

Permits will be issued each year from among the households with the most application points. For the first few years, depending on the number of applicants and permits available, selection will be done by lottery. When the number of applicants with the most points is less than the number of available permits, all of those applicants automatically will receive permits. The remaining permits will be issued by lottery among the applicants with the next most application points.

Permits will be limited to one per household. If a household draws a permit, that household is ineligible for a permit for the next three years, but should continue to apply.

Once a permit is issued, or if the household fails to apply for a permit, the household point total automatically returns to zero.

If a household wins a permit, no one in that household may hunt caribou or moose anywhere else in Alaska that regulatory year. However, winning household members may hunt moose in Game Management Unit 13.

If a permittee kills a caribou, the antlers must be cut from the skull plate, or the skull plate must be cut in half. Regardless of the manner of trophy destruction, the antlers must be left at the kill site.

Other considerations:

A registration hunt was rejected because of the likelihood of very short seasons and the strong possibility of overharvest.

All edible meat must be salvaged. Meat of the four quarters and the ribs must remain on the bone until transported from the field to the location where it will be processed for human consumption.

Participants in the community harvest program also are prohibited from hunting moose or caribou outside the area established for those hunts. Antler destruction provisions also apply to community harvest program participants.

Winning households should apply every year, even if ineligible to receive a permit for the next three years. Failure to apply will mean household points will not accrue during those years of ineligibility.

ADF&G will be conducting random sampling to ensure household compliance with the Tier I regulations.

Experiment

This new system replaces one that has been the subject of intense debate for two decades. The Board of Game will reexamine it in 2011. As has been the case virtually every time the system has been changed, there is a strong likelihood that lawsuits will be filed. It will be up to the courts to decide if the new system will be given a chance or whether we will be forced to revert to the old system.

MOOSE HUNTING IN UNIT 13

A community harvest program, the same as for caribou, will exist for the eight villages. The harvest limit will be up to 100 bulls, plus however many spike/fork-50-inch/four brow tine bulls are taken during the Aug. 10-Sept. 20 season.

All other Alaskans may hunt in the traditional Sept. 1-20 season for spike/fork-50-inch/four brow tine bulls.

In addition, there will be some drawing permits for any bull for Alaska residents and some drawing permits for 50-inch/four brow tine bulls for nonresidents in areas where there are surplus bulls.

Unlike the Tier I caribou hunt, there is no household limit on moose hunting in Unit 13. Trophy destruction of antlers is not required for moose in Unit 13.

All edible meat must be salvaged. Meat of the four quarters and the ribs must remain on the bone until transported from the field to the location where it will be processed for human consumption.