

Proposal #227 — Make Kodiak goat registration permits more readily available.

I support this proposal.

The current regulation is a way to discourage non-Kodiak residents from hunting with these permits. This segregates Alaska hunters, and discriminates among the same class of users. As much as possible, Alaska hunters should be treated equally, which the current regulation does not do. I have personally decided not to hunt goats with these registration permits because of the extra cost of travelling twice to Kodiak - once to get the permit, and then again to actually hunt. The BOG should not encourage Alaskans to try to exclude other Alaskans from participating in any legal hunt in Alaska - and these type of regulations do exactly that. Permits should be available all over Alaska well before the hunt and also online, as is currently done for many similar hunts.

Proposals #48 — Repeal Community Harvest permit, All resident hunters are Tier I.

I support this proposal.

For the same general reason I supported Proposal #227, I support this simplification of the Nelchina caribou hunt. I realize the State's subsistence law recognizes two divisions of Alaskans - Tier I and Tier II - when dealing with subsistence populations of game animals. Given that constraint, whenever possible I believe Alaskan hunters should be treated equally. I don't think that the male resident hunter behind me over my left shoulder should be treated differently than the female resident hunter behind me over my left shoulder. Nor should I be given more opportunities than either of them. We are all resident hunters, treat us the same.

I believe State Statute is straightforward about when subsistence game populations are in Tier II status and when they are in Tier I status; the ANS number is set to do just that. Because the Nelchina caribou population currently has more harvestable animals than the amount needed for subsistence, all Alaskans are supposed to have an equal opportunity to harvest them. We should not be writing regulations that circumvent the intent of Statutes just to try and pacify different groups of hunters who push the hardest. All the resident hunters in this room, and in Alaska, should now have an equal opportunity to harvest Nelchina caribou.

We are kidding ourselves if we think that by continually looking for legal loopholes in State subsistence Statutes we will, somehow, bring the most benefit to customary and traditional users, and pacify all the user groups. From what I have seen, the recent history of the Nelchina caribou maneuvers have just given more opportunity to those groups with the most money to litigate for their benefit. I have no doubt I could join a group and get together enough money to go to court and win for that group. But we want to be hunters, not lawyers and litigators. And we should be treated equally. I don't think equal treatment is too much to ask of the State of Alaska.