Proposal 85

Remove the exception for harvest tickets and reports for caribou for those portions of Alaska north of the Yukon River

- Department Recommendation:
  - DEFER the proposal for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A to the Region 5 Arctic/Western Board meeting (Winter 2017)

  - SUPPORT the amendment for a general harvest ticket in Units 21, 24, 25, 26B and 26C (Region 3), to replace RC900

- Public Proposal
Advisory Committee Votes

- Kotzebue Sound, Upper Kobuk, Lower Kobuk, Noatak/Kivalina, Koyukuk & Yukon Flats ACs: Opposed
- Northern Norton Sound & Southern Norton Sound ACs: Defer to Region 5 Board meeting
- Middle Yukon AC: Support as amended by replacing existing registration system in Units 21 and 24 with a harvest ticket
Existing registration system developed for harvest monitoring of the Western Arctic (WAH) & Teshekpuk Lake (TCH) herds within broad rural areas of northern Alaska;

WAH and TCH herds are managed by Region 5 (Arctic/Western region);

All other herds north of the Yukon River are managed by Region III (Interior and Northeastern region);

Region 5 staff agree with the proponent that improved harvest reporting is necessary for effectively managing both herds during a period of population decline.
Region III Amended Option

- Low hunter participation and reporting
- Infrequent WAH occurrence
- Compromises management of other herds (HHH, RMH, WMH, GMH, CAH)
- Local Residents utilize other harvest reporting mechanisms
When the existing registration regulation was first implemented during the early 1980s, a short harvest questionnaire was sent to all hunters who registered;

Registration system was developed because the harvest ticket system worked poorly or not at all in Region 5;

When the herd became very large in size & not significantly affected by harvests, the questionnaire was discontinued during the early 1990s;

Village harvest surveys conducted by Subsistence Division have confirmed that the harvest ticket and registration system has worked poorly for caribou.
Background

- Region 5 staff are working with the ACs, WAH Working Group and the public to develop a harvest reporting system that has some level of public support;

- In Proposal 140, staff requested that a registration permit system be implemented for Unit 22 where it has public support;

- The Region 5 public has become much more familiar with registration permit systems used for moose & muskoxen management.
Current harvest estimates for the WAH & TCH herds are developed using a statistical regression model that uses data from village harvest surveys & location data from GPS/satellite radio collars;

Long-term goal is to incorporate additional harvest data into our statistical model for estimating overall harvest using the radio telemetry data in combination with reported harvest data.
Harvest ticket reporting systems have traditionally not worked well in Region 5;

When improved harvest reporting in Region 5 is needed for conservation reason as has occurred for some moose & muskox populations, some type of permit system has been implemented;

Region 5 staff are working with the ACs & public now to develop a harvest reporting system for consideration at the winter 2017 Region 5 Board meeting;

If Proposal 140 is amended as requested, staff will have a chance to evaluate how well a registration permit system works in Unit 22;

SUPPORT the amendment for a general harvest ticket in Region 3.
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