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Submitted By

David Behr

Submitted On

11/11/2020 5:49:19 PM

Affiliation

representing self



To The Board of Game: I have spent a good part of my adult life living along the Steese Hwy, where I have trapped, hunted, fished, worked and built several homes over a 50 year period. Over the past decade the popularity of the fall caribou hunt along the Steese in the areas between Eagle and 12 Mile Summits has increased dramatically. It is my observations that for the better part of the last 40 years the 40 mile herd has been rebuilding and up until recently we did not see caribou along the highway in any numbers. This year the much publicized fall hunt help to create a circus-carnival atmosphere along the highway. If the popularity of the hunt continues and a projected, reduced quota is established for 2021, I have concerns about over harvesting of the herd.

As related to me by homesteaders along the Steese in the early 70's, prior to this year's fall hunt, the last time that a large numbers of animals were harvested on the summits was 1968. The herd was in sharp decline after this. Please consider the agenda change request submitted by Sarah Behr that addresses the situation and gives tentative alternatives that would create a safe hunt for all while protecting the integrity of the herd.

Sincerely, Dave Behr, Fairbanks, Ak

[aaron bloomquist](#)

ACR3

Thursday, November 12, 2020 9:29:36 AM

I oppose the acceptance of this ACR. While there has been widespread winter kill in 2019-2020, there is not a biological emergency. 19c is not unique in the winter kill of last year and probably not even the hardest hit. Closure proposals simply come from people that don't understand how really protective our sheep management plan is. Closures vs doing absolutely nothing likely result in population recovery at almost exactly the same rate because ewes are already protected and sublegal rams can and do breed. Further restriction is unnecessary for Conservation. Restrictions are only necessary (debatable) for other purposes like crowding, trophy management, and other social considerations. I believe it was a dire mistake to close the Western Brooks Range after the 2013 winter. This closure did not measurably increase population recovery and displaced hunters to more crowded areas like 19c. 19c is very productive country that pumps out lots of sheep. Half the state winter killed, or more, and it will come back just like it did after 2013.

Thank you

Aaron Bloomquist
po box 126
Copper Center AK 99573
907-982-2471

ATTENTION:

AK. DEPT. OF FISH & GAME
BOARD OF GAME
DEAR KRISTY TIBBLES,



PC03
1 of 2

OCT. 16, 2020

I HOPE THIS NOTE GETS TO YOU AND YOU WILL READ IT.

I AM WRITING IN REGARDS TO FISH & GAME'S 40 MI. CARIBOU HUNT THIS PAST FALL - AUG. 10TH 2020 UP THE STEESE HIWAY IN GAME MGT. # 25 C + 20 B.

I MUST LET SOMEONE KNOW HOW I FEEL AND SPEAK FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS (MY GRANDCHILDREN AND GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN, HOPEFULLY) UNFORTUNATELY THEY WILL BE PICKING UP TRASH (HUMAN GARBAGE) FOR A LONG, LONG TIME AND LOOKING AT "TRAILS TO NOWHERE..." CREATED BY ALL THE HUNDREDS OF "HUNTERS" FROM FAR AWAY GOING FOR THEIR

② CARIBOU.

OPENING THAT UP AND ANNOUNCING "THE CARIBOU ARE READILY AVAILABLE FROM THE STEESE HIWAY" WAS A MAJOR MISTAKE ON SOMEONE'S PART. POOR DECISION MAKING + MANAGEMENT AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL... EVEN A 7 YEAR OLD BOYSCOUT



KNOWS YOU DON'T LIGHT A FIRE
AND WALK AWAY.

EAGLE SUMMIT SUFFERED
GREATLY AS DID 12 MI. SUMMIT,
WAY TOO MANY PEOPLE - NO
FACILITIES, UNSAFE TO SAY

THE LEAST. OUR FAMILY HAS A
PLACE UP THERE AND IT WAS
UNLIKE ANYTHING WE'VE EVER
SEEN. WE AND MANY PEOPLE WE
KNOW FROM FAIRBANKS TO CENTRAL
HAVE SAD AND TERRIBLE STORIES
OF THIS PAST HUNT. IT WAS
NOT A SUCCESS... IT WAS A
MAJOR, HUGE FAILURE.

PLEASE CONSIDER A LOTTERY
DRAWING OR PERMIT HUNT OR
SOMETHING TO REMEDY THIS.
I KNOW YOU CAN AND WILL DO
MUCH BETTER IN THE FUTURE.

THANK-YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND
UNDERSTANDING ON THIS MATTER,
I HAVE NO PHOTOS TO SEND... THEY
ARE IN MY MIND AND HEART, WANTON
WASTE... VERY, VERY MUCH... I WISH
TO FORGET ALL OF IT. *Judith*



Submitted By
Karen Brewster
Submitted On
11/9/2020 8:02:33 PM
Affiliation

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

I am writing to urge you to accept ACR 7 submitted by Sarah Behr to establish a targeted hunt for the entire Fortymile caribou season. This would expand the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's ability to utilize the targeted hunt option for the entire fall and winter registration hunts, instead of just from December through March as established in 2012. This strategy would ensure that the hunt continues to be sustainable and meets population goals established by the Fortymile Herd Intensive Management Plan while also reducing hunter congestion/chaos and user conflicts.

Because of the extensive and large-scale damage that occurred along the Steese Highway during the hunt in August 2020, it is imperative that this issue is addressed now rather than waiting until 2023 when interior Alaska proposals are scheduled to be reviewed by the Board. The way the August hunt was managed this year with a 5000 caribou quota and last-minute allowance of two animals per person led to a mass invasion of hunters to an area that could not sustain such numbers. This resulted in road congestion, misuse of off-road vehicles, wanton waste of animals, illegal dumping of carcasses along the roadway, destruction of a portion of the non-motorized national Pinnell Mountain hiking trail, increased the potential for shooting accidents, and made it unsafe and impossible for anyone else who might have wanted to use the area in a different way to access it. Over the two weeks that the main hunt occurred, the limited enforcement presence of five Alaska State Troopers and two Bureau of Land Management rangers could not maintain 24/7 oversight in order to ensure everyone's safety, control illegal behavior, and issue citations. They did make contact with many hunters and provided warnings and wrote tickets, but it was not enough given the numbers of hunters in the area.

These conditions cannot be allowed to continue for another three years until the Board can review the Fortymile Herd's management plans. This year's negative consequences of the large road-accessible hunt, including detracting from the quality of the hunt, unsafe roadside and field conditions, and defacement of State and Federal lands, will ultimately limit equal access for all Alaskans in future hunts. Given the success of this year's fall and winter hunts, it is unlikely that next year's fall quota and bag limit will remain the same (5,000 animals and two caribou of any sex respectively), however, given the precedent set this year there will be continued high levels of hunter interest and participation. As a result, the quota will likely be met quickly and the hunt could be shut down within a few days. As has been seen in the past, this results in a large-scale rush of hunters trying to be the first ones to get their caribou before the hunt closes again. This would mean all users will not have equal access or a reasonable expectation of success because of a probable early emergency closure.

A targeted hunt would allow the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to stagger the number of hunters in all or a portion of the hunt area over a wider time period in order to better control the harvest, keep the quota from being exceeded, and reduce the need for emergency closure. A targeted hunt option would also ensure that Alaskans who participate in crowded portions of the hunt area will have a reasonable opportunity to harvest an animal before the hunt closes, allow ADF&G to meet management objectives, as well as spread out hunting pressure, which would reduce dangerous conditions resulting from congestion and minimize negative impacts on the land. This allows for a more sustainable approach to the hunt.

ADF&G already has the ability to administer a targeted hunt and utilizes this tool elsewhere in the state. The structure allows for equal access, as applicants do not have to be among the first to apply or compete with thousands of others in order to harvest an animal before the hunt closes. Additionally, hunters who apply for but do not receive a targeted permit would be allowed to hunt Fortymile caribou in less crowded locations of the hunt area under the normal fall and winter registration permit hunts.

Thank you for your consideration of this issue.

Karen Brewster



[Glenn Elliott](#)

Kudos in order

Thursday, October 29, 2020 12:26:07 AM

Not only is this a very difficult time for all Alaskan citizens but in my experience it is also a very difficult time for Guide's across the state I appreciate all you can do to alleviate the hardships being experienced by hunters, guides and outfitters. I am honored to have been asked to proctor exams in the past and will be available to do so again should the need arise again in the future. Keep up the good work!

Glenn

Amaq Guide Service

Sent from my iPhone

Submitted By
Justin Hill
Submitted On
11/12/2020 7:10:49 PM
Affiliation

Phone
7126357809

Email
jhill902006@gmail.com

Address
1706 ARMY RD
APT B
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Concerning the extensive ATV damage in the Pinnell/ 12 mile summit area. As a preface, I am a hunter and understand the appeal of accessing hunting areas via ATVs, but the complete lack of respect for sensitive alpine tundra is appalling. I hiked the Pinnell trail this past October and it was a muddy mess with deep ruts everywhere. Once the trail started to become too steep or narrow for ATVs, they just decided to veer off every direction. With binoculars you could clearly see a maze of trails going well of into the distance. Although the damage done will take decades to heal, it would be much appreciated if a solution to prevent further damage was discussed at this meeting. Best, Justin

Submitted By
Laura Knutsen
Submitted On
11/12/2020 7:54:31 PM
Affiliation

I'm commenting in regards to the Agenda Change Request 7 for establishing a targeted caribou hunt. I believe this is a serious issue for Alaska public land users, both hunters and non-hunters alike, and it needs to be addressed as soon as possible. I hiked the Pinnel trail in early October and was shocked by the damage that ATVs had done during the hunt. From the Eagle summit trailhead, the first 2 miles were completely torn up by ATV use in an area designated for non-motorized use. This damage will be evident on the landscape for decades to come, and it will only get worse without immediate action taken to regulate the hunt. I implore you to consider the irreparable damage being done and minimize hunting pressure and restrict ATV access to the Pinnel Trail area. Thank you.



[Clint Miller](#)

Draw permit reissue

Wednesday, October 28, 2020 3:25:37 PM

My name is Clint Miller and I'm a registered big game guide. I hunt and guide moose in unit 21E and it is in a no fly zone. So we have to take the clients to the village on the Yukon River and pick them up there and fly there meat and trophies out of the village to be legal to hunt in this draw area. When the state of Alaska allowed each community to make its own mandates this fall all of the villages on the Yukon decided not to let any hunters in or land at the runways and to not sell fuel to anyone and to fine anyone that did land there. This being a state choice to allow this my hunters were denied the opportunity to hunt there guided only draw permits! We need to reissue all of these draw permits to these hunters so they can hunt fall 2021! This is no difference than the state shutting down the spring hunt and making a new season or reissue the draw permits for those! Please reissue the fall draw permits that were not able to hunt due to shut downs from the state mandates and Covid 19 so I don't lose my business and hunters from coming to the state of Alaska!

Clint Miller

907-440-0280

Alaska Wilderness Outfitter

Registered guide 1352

Sent from my iPhone

Submitted By
Maxwell Plichta
Submitted On
11/12/2020 7:58:47 PM
Affiliation

Phone
8479893711
Email
MaxPlichta@gmail.com
Address
1620 Appaloosa Lane
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Hello,

After carefully reading ACR 7 and witnessing firsthand the defacement of state and federal lands because of the 2020 fall 40-Mile Caribou Herd Hunt I want to encourage the Board of Game to accept ACR 7. ACR 7 should be accepted to establish a targeted hunt for the entire 40-Mile Caribou Season, thus allowing ADF&G to stagger the number of hunters in all or a portion of the hunt area. One of the benefits of staggering the number of hunters using any one particular area is that ADF&G can reduce the congestion and spread out the land-use impact over time and space. By doing so, ADF&G can minimize the future negative impacts of the 40-Mile Caribou Herd Hunt to state and federal lands. The unprecedented number of hunters that participated in the 2020 fall 40-Mile Caribou Herd Hunt undoubtedly contributed to public land damage that will take decades if not centuries to heal. Countless ruts and trails were created, deepened, and widened in one of the most sensitive and slow recovering ecosystems in Alaska. In doing so, the 2020 fall 40-Mile Caribou Herd Hunt has laid the groundwork for continued defacement of state and federal lands. If ACR 7 is not accepted, then subsequent hunts of the 40-Mile Caribou Herd risk building upon the widespread damage caused by the 2020 fall hunt. This is not an issue that the Board of Game should wait until 2023 to consider. Thank you for taking the time to review my comment and for your consideration of ACR 7.

Best, Max Plichta



unapologetically FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS

PO Box 60095, Fairbanks, Alaska 99706 (907) 371-7436
email info@residenthuntersofalaska.org web www.residenthuntersofalaska.org

November 9, 2020

Comments to Alaska Board of Game

Teleconference Meeting November 18, 2020

ACR 3 – Close the sheep season in Unit 19C for two years or shorten the season

Consideration of an Agenda Change Request (ACR) hinges on whether the request meets any of the criteria for acceptance. ACR 3 thus depends upon the validity of the claim that there is a significant decline of sheep in Unit 19C, and thus there is a biological concern that future hunting will further this decline.

Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) has been asking the Board for several cycles now to limit nonresident hunters in Unit 19C, most all of whom are guided, that make up the overwhelming harvest of rams in 19C. Nonresident guided hunters take 60-70 percent of the rams in Unit 19C. The fact that this ACR request comes from one of the guides in 19C with twenty years of experience guiding in the unit, asking the Board to accept the request and then hear at the next regulatory meeting a proposal to shut down the entire sheep hunting season in the unit for residents and nonresidents for two years, only reinforces what we've been saying.

RHAK has long spoken of our concerns with continual high harvests by nonresident guided sheep hunters in Unit 19C, along with sheep declines overall in the unit from other factors, and our worries that eventually, as in the Chugach, the Board would shut it all down for everyone and go to draw hunts only.

RHAK agrees that there has been a significant decline of sheep in Unit 19C, and that there are much fewer legal rams. The Department has informed us they believe it is likely we have a 40-60 percent decline of sheep overall in Unit 19C. We thus **support** acceptance of this ACR while strongly opposing its recommendations.

If the Board ends up accepting this ACR request, or should similar proposals come in down the line, RHAK wants to stress now that sustainable and huntable sheep populations are our first priority, and secondly if and when sheep populations decline, as has happened in Unit 19C, the only group that should be limited in any way as a first step is the nonresident component that takes most of the harvest. Not only do nonresident guided hunters take two-thirds of the rams in 19C, this also ends up locking up areas for many resident hunters and causing conflicts. As was mentioned by another guide at a previous meeting who supports limiting nonresident sheep hunters in this unit, when he hunts on his own as a resident he always ends up having to go around the guides, whereas it should be the complete opposite: Guides should have to go around resident hunters.



Request for emergency regulations re: Fortymile & Nelchina caribou hunts

RHAK fully supports expanded sustainable hunting opportunities for resident hunters. Currently the Department would like to bring down the Fortymile caribou population due to habitat concerns. The Fortymile winter hunt has a bag limit of two caribou, either sex, with a 5000 caribou harvest quota. We see no reason why we should not allow successful Nelchina caribou subsistence hunters who only harvested one caribou, from participating in the Fortymile winter subsistence hunt by emergency order.

We **support** the request from Board members Al Barrette and Jerry Burnett.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Mark Richards
Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK)

Submitted By
Ted Spraker
Submitted On
11/12/2020 3:45:44 PM
Affiliation

Chairman Hoffman and board members,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on ACRs currently before the board. I am in strong support of accepting ACR # 6 (to resolve discrepancies and align general season harvest ticket moose hunts in subunit 15B) to be discussed at the January, 2021 meeting.

Action taken by the board during the March 2019 meeting to address this request resulted in more confusion than clarity. There were three proposals (69-71) requesting the board align 15B west with 15B east and to remove the draw hunt requirement. Proposal #71, by the department, clearly outlined all the necessary changes to align the two portions of subunit 15B with 15A, 15C and unit 7. Proposals #69 and 70 were submitted by local ACs, and by board and department policy, those were addressed first. Proposal #69 was discussed and adopted by the board without clear amendments to clarify all the changes needed to align the areas, shown in # 71. Amendments to "take no action" on proposals # 70 and 71 were passed, assuming the board addressed all the components requested by the department in proposal 71.

There was clearly a misunderstanding of the action of the board, resulting in unjustified lost hunter opportunity and confusion to the public. Accepting ACR #6 will provide an opportunity for the board to clarify their intent during the March 2019 meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Ted Spraker

49230 Victoria Ave.

Soldotna, AK 99669

Submitted By
Lauren A Staff
Submitted On
11/6/2020 9:18:08 AM
Affiliation

I support Agenda Change Request #7 to establish a targeted hunt for the Fortymile caribou season. This past year's hunt created unsafe conditions for hunters and travelers as available parking facilities were inadequate to handle demand and overflow hunter parking spilled into the Steese Highway right of way. Hunters were unable to maintain a safe distance from each other to ensure safety during the hunt. I heard of multiple instances where different hunting parties were shooting at the same animals. The increased burden on the trail system resulted in extreme and irreparable damage to area trails, meant to be used and enjoyed by all Alaskans, not just those participating in a seasonal hunt.

Submitted By
Eric Troyer
Submitted On
11/11/2020 8:12:46 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9074556641

Email
fbxtrails@gmail.com

Address
2051 Pine Cone Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

I support Sarah Behr's Agenda Change Request: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/static/regulations/regprocess/gameboard/pdfs/2020-2021/acr/acr7.pdf>

While I am not a subsistence user nor a resident of Central, I do have a strong interest in the Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail and its users. The fall 2020 Fortymile Caribou Herd hunt opening could be described as an "Oklahoma Land Rush." Thousands of hunters descended on the area due to the 5,000 quota and 2-caribou-per-person bag limit. Due to that land rush mentality, there were many violations of the Pinnell Mountain Trail's non-motorized easement and many instances of destruction of tundra, which is not allowed under the Department of Natural Resources' Generally Allowed Uses. Caribou carcasses were left on the trail. The intense number of hunters in a small area created a dangerous situation for anyone in the area, including hunters and hikers. Alaska Wildlife Troopers and BLM Rangers were overwhelmed by the numbers.

The ability of Fish and Game to regulate the population of the Fortymile Caribou Herd should not be hindered. Sarah Behr's proposal would allow for regulation of the herd, would improve the safety of everyone involved in the area, and would allow for more controlled conditions so that Troopers and Rangers could better do their jobs.

Sarah Behr's proposal needs to be discussed as soon as possible so that a similar "land rush" doesn't happen again during the 2021 fall hunt.