

Comments by: Arnold Brower Jr., from the North Slope – Unit 26A

Wolves, wolverines, and brown bears diet in Unit 26A are Caribou, sheep, moose, musk ox; winter or year round.

Wolf population in 2018 was approximately 8 -11,000 wolves; (ave. 9,000 wolves)

Ad hoc educated calculation: Mortality of wolves = 1,400 trapped or hunted

NRR is figured conservatively: 40% of pups born to female make it to the population

3,000 female wolves 7 -10 pups annually with mortality rate of 4-5 pups per female, so [4 pups times 3,000 = 12,000] with a 40% mortality rate times 12,000 = 8,400 new wolves annually?

8,400 new wolves annually times 6 years = 50,400

2018 population is 9,000 + 50,400 = current wolf population in Alaska.

Caribou consumption by 59,000 wolves = ? with some mortality rate calculated

Educated guess...

What is the current wolve population in Alaska. = 164,000caribou conservatively...

Cost per caribou with guides are for two people \$15,000.00 in reports

Units allowed for nonresidents to hunt caribou are in 9D, 10 Adak Island; Unit 24A, 25A, 25B, 25D and 26C in Alaska.

Caribou tags are \$650 per caribou. Non-residents licenses are \$160.00 but must be purchased before arrival in Alaska.

Flights to Prudhoe are 1-2,000 dollars depends on guide rates

Guided cost are approximately \$5,000 per Caribou

These guides veering /herding caribou herds closer to their landing area are visible and often seen in unit 26A

stop this!

Oppose: proposal # 2

Support: Proposal #4

Support: Proposal # 31

Support: Proposal #32

Support: Proposal 35 only with guarantee catches in Unit 26A for Utqiagvik

Suspend all guided caribou hunts for two years. Guided caribou be illegal to hunt in Unite 26A

do put bounty on wolves - - a positive conservation measure - - 3yrs!



January 12, 2024

*We support
VOICE comments!
ABJ.*

State of Alaska Board of Game

Western Arctic/Western Region Meeting, January 26-29, 2024

SUPPORT 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou

The Voice of the Arctic Iñupiat (VOICE) **supports** Proposal 4: 5 AAC 85.025 which implements hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou to align Unit 26A and Unit 23. Proposal 4: 5 AAC 85.025 was borne from a series of local hunter meetings to address the then conservation concern of the Teshekpuk caribou herd (TCH). Since the plan was proposed and adopted by this body in 2015, the TCH has stabilized. This proposal has a proven track record of success. This proposal is limited to Unit 26A and Unit 23, minimizing the impact to management of other caribou herds within the Western Arctic caribou herd range. This proposal also takes into consideration the real need to feed families in locations where grocery store access is not only minimal but cost exorbitant.

VOICE is a non-profit organization that was established in 2015 by the region's collective elected Iñupiat leadership to speak with a unified voice on issues impacting the North Slope Iñupiat, their communities, their economy, and their culture. Today, VOICE is comprised of twenty-four member entities from communities across the North Slope – including tribal councils, municipal governments, and Alaska Native corporations. Together, we speak as one on behalf of our region to promote and advocate issues for the benefit of our communities and our people. In March 2023, VOICE Board of Directors passed a motion to support the North Slope Borough Department of Wildlife Management (NSB DWM) in their efforts to ensure the people of the North Slope have the opportunity to provide sustenance and material for their families and communities, which they get from caribou.

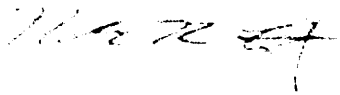
The Western Arctic caribou herd (WACH) is in decline and action needs to be taken to address the decline. Proposal 4: 5 AAC 85.025 comes from the North Slope Fish and Game Advisory Committee, an entity that dealt with a similar issue of the decline in the TCH within the last decade. Since this body adopted this proposal in 2015, the TCH stabilized and has since increased. **There are no more conservation concerns with the TCH.** Therefore this proposal has a proven track record.

This proposal includes the calving area and the northernmost range of the WACH. Harvest is split between the TCH and WACH within this area and Proposal 4 aims to reduce cow harvest within this portion of their range while still allowing hunters the opportunity to meet the needs of the communities they harvest for. Through a series of community hunter meetings, the NSB DWM the importance of cow caribou to the recovery of the WACH and hunters largely agreed the proposal is an appropriate regulation change given the conservation concern.

Living in rural Alaska is very expensive. Food that is not obtained by hunting or fishing, is flown in, resulting in very expensive groceries. Further, the availability of groceries is weather dependent. One can take 100 dollars to a local grocery store in rural Alaska and feed a family of four for a meal or two. Or you can take that same 100 dollars to buy fuel and ammunition and go hunt. And if successful, feed your family and other community members for months. Our hunters provide for so many more people than their immediate families, they provide for the community members and those who cannot provide for themselves.

North Slope Inupiaq culture is deeply intertwined with the natural environment. Food sovereignty and security is extremely important to maintaining our subsistence-based Inupiaq culture, communities, and people on the North Slope. VOICE fully support the proven method of bag limits and seasons presented in 5 AAC 85.025. Thank you for your consideration of the seven communities within the North Slope that will be affected by this proposal and others presented at this meeting.

Quyanak,



Nagruk Harcharek
President

Proposal 2:

We want to **oppose** this proposal and several like it. It would restrict caribou harvest to 4 caribou per year of which only 1 could be a cow. It was submitted by several Advisory Committees in the NW Arctic Borough and by the Western Arctic Caribou Working Group.

Proposal 4:

This proposal was submitted by the North Slope Fish and Game Advisory committee and we want to **support** it. This is a counter proposal that seeks to limit caribou harvest to 4 caribou per year of which only one could be a cow. This proposal will align caribou hunting regulations throughout Game Management Unit (GMU) 26 A and a portion of GMU 23. It will allow the opportunity for hunters to still harvest caribou year-round while reducing cow harvest.

Proposal 31:

This proposal was submitted by the North Slope Fish and Game Advisory committee and we want to **support** it. This proposal will slightly liberalize moose harvest in portions of GMU 26A expand the hunt area. It will also align State and Federal moose harvest regulations in 26A which will make it less confusing to hunters.

Proposal 32:

This proposal was submitted by the North Slope Fish and Game Advisory committee and we want to **support** it. This proposal will expand the effective dates and the area of the current Controlled Use Area north of Anaktuvuk Pass.

Proposal 35:

This proposal was submitted by the North Slope Fish and Game Advisory committee and we want to **support** it. This proposal will align the muskoxen hunt area boundaries in portions of GMU 26A and 26B. It will also align Federal and State hunt boundaries which will make regulations less confusing to hunters.