

RC 94

## Ahtna Tene Nene's Proposals Related to the GMU 13 Community Subsistence Hunts and Tier I Household Caribou Hunt

### 1. Reduce number of groups and individuals participating in the CSH

- Increase group number above 25 or require at least 15 households per group.
- Require group members to make a 5 year commitment to CSH conditions. Would greatly reduce the administrative burden on the Department. One community application would serve for at least five years, only new members of the community would be added to the list each year. If the moose or caribou subsistence hunting opportunity within the hunt area was significantly reduced during the 5 year period due to biological or regulatory reasons, the Department could change the community hunt conditions to allow moose or caribou harvest outside of the community hunt area.
- Increase group application and reporting requirements to better reflect compliance with the community C&T use pattern. Ask the Department to develop a better application and reporting process using and report back to the Board.
- Require stricter reporting from groups that have not demonstrated C&T use before the Board (like Ahtna). It is both fair, and makes sense to relieve the administrative burden to require less reporting from Ahtna regarding whether the Ahtna community is meeting the C&T use pattern established by the Board for this hunt. Other groups that wish to reduce their reporting burden could make a proposal to the Board to review that group's community pattern of subsistence uses.

### 2. Equally distribute CSH any bull moose hunting opportunity

- Allocate any bull harvest tickets among all eligible CSH moose groups by providing one any bull harvest ticket for every three households that are in the group. For example, a group with 15 households would get 5 any bull harvest tickets and a groups with 150 households would get 50 harvest tickets.
- Establish a community bag limit of one moose for every 2 households. For example, if a group has 14 households, it is entitled to take a maximum of 7 moose. If a group has 200 households would be entitled to a maximum of 100 moose for the group. If a group has 15 households, it would be entitled to 3 any bull harvest tickets (see above proposal). The group could therefore take a maximum of 3 any bulls, and under this proposal, could take a maximum of 4 additional moose, or 7 total moose. This is a community quota. It does not restrict a hunter within the group from taking any number of moose to share with the community so long as the group quota has not been filled.
- Open CSH any bull season August 1. Only those with any bull harvest tickets can hunt from August 1-15. This would provide a small window of opportunity for any bull hunters before the caribou hunt begins.
- Limit weight of all-terrain vehicles for any bull hunt to less than 1800lbs.
- Overharvesting in one or more sub-units should not result in the closure of a sub-unit where the quota has not been met. Improve reporting requirements to help with managing sub-unit quotas.

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### **3. Provide greater any bull moose hunting opportunity for the CSH**

- Increase the any bull quota for the fall hunt (August 10-September 20) to at least 100 moose
- Provide a winter any bull hunt from December 1- March 15 and provide an additional and separate quota for the winter hunt. Allow additional any bull harvest tickets for the winter hunt.
- Establish a separate any bull quota sub-unit for Ahtna lands that is part of the CSH quota for any bulls. Ahtna lands would be considered a sub-unit of the CSH area (similar to the way the any bull moose hunt is currently being managed by sub-units). The quota for the Ahtna lands sub-unit would be 50 any bull moose. Fall and winter seasons would be the same as for other sub-units. August 10-September 20 and December 1 through March 15 or until quota is filled. Harvest tickets would be issued that would be specific to this sub-unit to groups that demonstrate permission to hunt on these private lands;
- As an alternative to establishing any bull quota sub-unit for Ahtna lands, authorize a registration any bull hunt limited to Ahtna lands. Participating in this registration hunt would not disqualify a person from hunting in the CSH. 50 any bulls; Season August 1-Sept 25; December 1 until quota reached or until May 15. Registration in person in Glennallen, Cantwell and Mentasta. According to the Department, there is an under-utilized harvest opportunity for moose on these private lands. Ahtna is contributing to predator control and developing moose habitat. Non-Ahtna shareholder hunting permitted under certain conditions.

### **4. Provide greater caribou opportunity**

- Increase CSH bag limit to 2 per household
- New CSH season April 15-May 15 for bulls only

### **5. Tier I Household Caribou hunt, Proposals 72-73**

- In addition to the condition requiring moose hunting in GMU 13, require all other big game species hunting be done exclusively in GMU 13;
- Include salvage requirements for caribou like those included in the CSH – must salvage all edible meat as well as heart, liver, kidneys and fat – meat to remain on bone until October 1. Also could require antler destruction.
- Include post season reporting requirement that demonstrates that the household is following the C&T pattern of use for that hunt - a simple checklist developed by Subsistence and Wildlife reflecting the household C&T pattern of use identified by the Board for this hunt, and a signed statement that the information in the checklist is accurate. Ask the Department to develop checklist and bring to back to Board for review. Would be substantially less reporting than is required for group but would provide some means for assessing whether the use is a subsistence use. May result in less interest in the Tier I hunt and more drawing hunt opportunity and therefore more options to manage the hunt to the benefit of all hunter groups.