

RC 011

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To: <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>
Subject: March Board of Game Meeting

Board of Game Proposal 202: March 2015 Meeting

Calls for changes to the caribou seasons for the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk caribou herds. With caribou numbers on the decline in northwest Alaska, I support these changes

What I do not support is the elimination of the "same day airborne" hunt in GMU 22 for caribou in the winter.

Very few caribou are actually taken during this hunt, and only a handful of people try to participate. With declining moose population numbers in GMU 22, hunters need every opportunity they can get to harvest meat.

Unlike ATV/Snowmachine hunters who are very mobile and can harvest a large number of caribou in a short period of time, aircraft hunters usually limit their harvest to one or two animals, due to aircraft capacity and normally only participate in the hunt once a season.

If we as a group want to conserve caribou for future use, I feel that looking at limiting the number of caribou taken by normal users (five a day) would be a good place to start.

With no biological reason for closing down the "same day airborne" hunt for caribou, I hope you as a Board recognize that we need to conserve our caribou herds. At the same time, hunting opportunities should not be taken away from a few hunters that have very little effect on the overall population of Western Arctic caribou herd.

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