Proposal 202: Western Arctic Herd & Teshekpuk Herd

PROPOSAL 202 – 5 AAC 85.025 (a) (16) (17) (18) (19) (20) (21). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. and 5 AAC 92.085 (8) (D) Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game at the request of the Alaska Board of Game

Proposal 202 covers all of northwestern Alaska

• This proposal would modify caribou hunting regulations differently in each of 5 subareas within WAH range:

• Jim Dau will cover that portion of the proposal that deals with the WAH (Areas A, B & C on the following map)

• Lincoln Parrett will cover that portion of the proposal that deals with the TCH (Areas D & E)
WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? For WAH range:

1. Change the nonresident bag limit to 1 bull/year throughout the range of the WAH

2. Prohibit the harvest of cows by nonresident hunters

3. Reduce the nonresident caribou season to 1 Aug. – 30 Sept. (in some areas a nonresident season may be announced within this period)

4. Prohibit the harvest of calves by all hunters

5. Eliminate the SDA caribou hunt in Unit 22

(These changes are numbered as above and highlighted yellow on the following slides.)

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS AND PROPOSED CHANGES?

New language is bold and underlined text: e.g. calves may not be taken

Deleted language is bracketed and upper case: e.g. [JULY 1–JUNE 30]
ACR Proposal 202
Caribou

Part A

Part B

Part C

Part D

Part E
ACR Proposal 202
Caribou
Part A

Part A Amended-- Majority of WAH Range

NORTHERN WAH RANGE – pink codified

CENTRAL-SOUTHERN WAH RANGE
no color to codified
Units and Bag Limits

Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) Nonresident Open Season

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

Up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken; July 1 – Oct. 14 Feb. 1 – June 30

Up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken Jul. 15 – Apr. 30

[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken Aug. 1 – Sept. 30

[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]
Units: 21D Remainder, 22A North, 22B Remainder, 22D Kuzitrin, 22E East, 23 Remainder, 24C, 24D

Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

Nonresident Open Season

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
5 caribou per day, as follows:

Up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken; July 1 – Oct. 14
Feb. 1 – June 30

Up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken
Sept. 1 – Mar. 31

[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 bull; however, calves may not be taken Aug. 1 – Sept. 30

[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]
PROPOSAL 202  MAP C, AMENDED – REINDEER ZONE (SHORT PUBLISHED SEASON)

Units: 22B West, 22D Pilgrim River drainage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units and Bag Limits</th>
<th>Resident Open Season</th>
<th>Nonresident Open Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Subsistence and General Hunts)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 caribou per day, as follows:

- Up to 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken
  - Oct. 1 – Oct. 14
  - Feb. 1 – Apr. 30

- Up to 5 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken
  - Oct. 1 – Mar. 31

- 5 caribou per day; however, calves may not be taken; during the period May 1 – Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order; however, cow caribou may not be taken April 1 – Aug. 31
  - (Season to be announced by emergency order)

[5 CARIBOU PER DAY; AND]

[5 CARIBOU PER DAY; DURING THE PERIOD MAY 1 – SEPT. 30, A SEASON MAY BE ANNOUNCED BY EMERGENCY ORDER; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]
# PROPOSAL 202  MAP C, AMENDED – REINDEER ZONE (SHORT PUBLISHED SEASON)

Units: 22B West, 22D Pilgrim River drainage

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Nonresident</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Season</td>
<td>Open Season</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Subsistence and</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>General Hunts)</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Units and Bag Limits**

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

- [5 CARIBOU; OR]

- **1 bull; however, calves may not be taken**
  - [5 CARIBOU]; during the period **Aug. 1 [MAY 1]** – Sept. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order
  - [; HOWEVER COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]
  - [OCT. 1 – APR. 30]

(Season to be announced by emergency order)
ACR Proposal 202
Caribou
Part C (Amended)

SEASON TO BE ANNOUNCED - WAH RANGE
blue codified

NEW AMENDMENT

Proposal 202 WAH: Slide 10
Remainder of Unit 22 (22A South, 22B West, 22D West, 22E West)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units and Bag Limits</th>
<th>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</th>
<th>Nonresident Open Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</td>
<td>5 caribou per day; however, calves may not be taken; cow caribou may not be taken Apr. 1 – Aug. 31; bull caribou may not be taken Oct. 15 – Jan. 31</td>
<td>(Season to be announced by emergency order)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[5 CARIBOU; HOWEVER, COW CARIBOU MAY NOT BE TAKEN MAY 16 – JUNE 30]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</td>
<td>1 bull; however, calves may not be taken; during the period Aug. 1 – Sept. 30 a season may be announced by emergency order</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[JULY 1 – JUNE 30]</td>
<td>(Season to be announced by emergency order)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

(8) a person who has been airborne may not take or assist in taking a big game animal until after 3:00 a.m. following the day in which the flying occurred; however, this paragraph does not apply to

[(D) TAKING CARIBOU FROM JANUARY 1 THROUGH APRIL 15, IN UNIT 22 IF THE HUNTER IS AT LEAST 300 FEET FROM THE AIRPLANE AT THE TIME OF TAKING;]
WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED?
These actions will begin the transition from 30+ years of essentially unlimited harvests to incrementally more restrictive regulations as the WAH declines.

Department Recommendation: **Support with amendments**

ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Unit 23  Kotzebue Sound AC .......................... **Support, amend WAH**
Unit 23  Upper Kobuk AC ........................... **Support, amend WAH**
Unit 23  Lower Kobuk AC ........................... **Support, amend WAH**
Unit 23  N. Seward Peninsula AC ................ **Support, amend WAH**
Unit 23  Noatak/Kivalina AC ...................... **Support, amend WAH**
Unit 24  Koyukuk AC ................................. **Support, amend WAH**
Unit 22  N. Norton Sound AC ..................... **Support**
Unit 22  S. Norton Sound AC ..................... **Support, amend WAH (“to be announced” season south of Unalakleet River)**
Unit 26A North Slope ................................. **Support, amend WAH**
Unit 21  Middle Yukon AC ......................... **Did not meet**
Unit 21  Ruby AC .............................. **Did not meet**
ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

WAH Working Group....................Support, amend WAH
W. Interior RAC..........................Support, amend WAH
NW Arctic RAC...........................Support, amend WAH
Seward Peninsula RAC...................Oppose

During the last 12 mos. Region V staff conducted meetings in 18 communities within WAH range and also met with the Kobuk Valley Subsistence Resource Committee, Red Dog Subsistence Resource Committee, and NW Arctic Borough Planning Commission:

• Most (all?) of these groups supported reducing caribou harvests now

• Most (all?) of these groups strongly noted the need for predator control
WAH Population Information

This presentation:

- Census results & population projections
- Bull:cow ratios
- Importance of harvests & predation
- Harvestable surplus relative to:
  - IM and ANS levels
  - Harvests
- Harvests relative to WAH population size
- Summary of recommended amendments to Proposal 202 by ACs and other organizations
- Land status map of WAH range
Note: Population projections are based on many assumptions that are not all going to be met – I’ve included them only to show that this herd will probably continue to decline in the near future.
Appendix 2: Management Recommendations

Liberal Management (green)
- Reduce nonresident bull harvest only to maintain 40 bulls:100 cows
- No restriction of resident bull harvest unless <40 bulls:100 cows

Conservative Management (orange)
- No harvest of calves
- No nonresident cow harvest
- Restrict nonresident bull harvest
- Encourage voluntary reduction in resident cow harvest
- Limit subsistence harvest of bulls only if <40 bulls:100 cows

Preservative Management (yellow)
- No harvest of calves
- Limit harvest of cows by residents through permit hunts and/or village quotas
- Limit subsistence harvest of bulls only if <40 bulls:100 cows
- Harvest restricted to residents only according to State and federal law – closure of some federal public lands may be necessary

Critical Management (red)
- No harvest of calves
- Highly restrict resident cow harvest through permit hunts and/or village quotas
- Limit subsistence harvest of bulls to maintain 40 bulls:100 cows
- Harvest restricted to residents only according to State and federal law – closure of some federal public lands may be necessary
y = -0.5259x + 1100.3
R² = 0.669

40 B:100 C is the minimum level recommended in the Cooperative Management Plan

Fall Bull:Cow Ratios
Total Harvestable Surplus (Bulls & Cows Combined) Relative to Annual Harvest Levels, IM and ANS

• Intensive Management (IM): When the harvestable surplus goes below 12,000 caribou, or the WAH population goes below 200,000 caribou, the State must consider IM

• Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS): When the harvestable surplus goes below 8,000 caribou the State must exclude non subsistence uses
  • Usually Tier II for residents
  • Season closure for nonresidents
Harvestable Surplus of Bulls & Cows Relative to Annual Harvest Levels

- Local harvest: 67% bulls & 33% cows (Subsistence Div. data)
- Nonlocal harvest: 90% bulls & 10% cows (harvest ticket data)
Total Annual Harvest as a Percentage of WAH Population

Average = 3.4% = 5.5%

% of herd harvested vs. regulatory year

Proposition 202 WAH: Slide 22
Proportions of Bulls & Cows Harvested

% of population

% of population

harvest data

projection

% of population

year

1999-2000
2000-2001
2001-2002
2002-2003
2003-2004
2004-2005
2005-2006
2006-2007
2007-2008
2008-2009
2009-2010
2010-2011
2011-2012
2012-2013
2013-2014
2014-2015
2015-2016
2016-2017
2017-2018

% cows taken
% bulls taken
projected % cow harvest
projected % bull harvest
Summary of recommended amendments to Proposal 202 by AC’s and other organizations

[Calendar Year]

Regulatory Year

= average cow closure dates  
= average bull closure dates  
= bulls & cows open

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**Adv. Comm. or Other Organization**

- #1 - bull: Kotz Sd
- #2 - bull: Noa-Kvl
- #3 - bull: N Sew Pen
- #4 - bull: U Kobuk
- #5 - bull: L Kobuk
- #6 - bull: WAH WG: U23
- #7 - bull: WAH WG: U26A
- #8 - bull: W Int Rac
- #9 - bull: Koyukuk
- #10 - bull: NWA RAC
- #11 - bull: N Nort Sd
- #12 - cow: Kotz Sd
- #13 - cow: Noa/Kvl
- #14 - cow: N Sew Pen
- #15 - cow: U Kobuk
- #16 - cow: L Kobuk
- #17 - cow: WG-U23
- #18 - cow: WG-U26A
- #19 - cow: W Int RAC
- #20 - cow: Koyukuk
- #21 - cow: NWA RAC
- #22 - cow: N Nort Sd
- #23 - cow: Kawerak
- #24 - cow: LK
- #25 - cow: S Nort Sd

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**Date**

Apr 4  Sep 2  Oct 11  Jan 26  Apr 4

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Proposal 202 WAH: Slide 24
Land Status Within 95% Kernel
WAH Range