Teshekpuk Herd: Proposal 202

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO?

For the TCH range (Part D):

1. Change the nonresident bag limit to 1 bull/year throughout the summer/autumn range of the TCH.

2. Reduce the non-resident caribou season in the summer-autumn range to 15 Aug.-30 Sep.

3. Reduce resident bag limits for cows

4. Reduce resident seasons to only highest periods of use: ~30% reduction in harvest.

5. Prohibit the harvest of calves by all hunters.

For combined TCH/CAH range (Part E):

6. Close seasons when CAH are typically not present (Oct 11-May 15)
Part D -- Northern Unit 26(A) - TCH Range
MAP D: Remainder of Unit 26(A); TCH Range

---Amendments from RC XX

**Units and Bag Limits**

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**
- 5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken
- 3 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken
- 5 caribou per day; however, no more than 3 cows per day may be taken; calves may not be taken

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**
- 1 bull; however, calves may not be taken

**Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)**
- July 1 – Sept. 30
- Oct. 1 – Oct. 31
- Mar. 1 – Mar. 31

**Nonresident Open Season**
- Aug. 15 – Sept. 30
ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS:

North Slope AC..............................................................................Support with Amendments

Amended Language:

Remainder of Unit 26(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken

July 1 – July 15

5 caribou per day, no more than 3 of which may be cows; however, neither calves or cows with calves may be taken

July 16 – Oct. 15

3 cows per day; however, calves may not be taken

Oct. 16 – Dec. 31

5 caribou per day; however, no more than 3 cows per day may be taken; calves may not be taken

Jan. 1 – Mar. 15

5 bulls per day; however, calves may not be taken

Mar. 16 – June 30
ACR Proposal 202
Caribou
Part E

Proposal 202 TCH: slide 10
### Change TCH seasons – Southwestern Unit 26(B) overlap with CAH

**MAP E:** Unit 26(B) west of the Dalton Highway and south of 69° 30’ N Latitude; TCH overlap with CAH

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units and Bag Limits</th>
<th>Resident Open Season</th>
<th>Nonresident Open Season</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Unit 26(B), that portion south of 69° 30' N. lat. and west of the</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Dalton Highway</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>5 caribou; however, cow caribou may be taken only from July 1 – Oct. 10</td>
<td><strong>July 1 – Oct. 10</strong></td>
<td><strong>July 1 – Oct. 10</strong></td>
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<td><strong>May 16 – June 30</strong></td>
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TCH Population and Harvest Objectives

Population Size
- 55,000 .......................... 2011 photocensus
- 32,000 .......................... 2013 photocensus
- <25,000.......................... Predicted for 2015

Current Annual Harvest
- 2350 .......................... Resident Harvest
- <5.............................. Nonresident Harvest

Available Harvest (based on 1% female, 15% male)
- 1,575 .............................. from 32,000

Amount Necessary for Subsistence (ANS)
- TCH +WAH ....................... positive C&T(8,000 – 12,000)

Intensive Management
- Population Objective: ...... 15,000 – 28,000
- Harvest Objective: .......... 900 – 2,800
Estimated Harvest Compared to Harvestable Surplus

Harvest estimates are based on per-capita averages from community harvest surveys, and average sex ratios in the harvest (80:20)

- 15% allowable harvest rate on bulls
- currently overharvesting by ~40%

- 1% allowable harvest rate on cows
- currently overharvesting by ~100%
Recent Population Estimates and Population Projections

- **Current Harvest**
- **30% harvest reduction**
- **No Harvest**

Graph showing population estimates from 2010 to 2019.
PROPOSAL 202 - TCH CONCLUSIONS

• Decline is due to a combination of:
  • Low and declining calf production
  • Poor calf survival (<30%)
  • High adult mortality rates (especially recently)
  • Disease incidence appears very low

• Underlying mechanisms are not totally clear, but are likely related to:
  • Poor summer and winter nutrition
  • High levels of predation on calves in winter
  • Nutritionally mediated risk of predation
  • Unstable age structure

• Harvest will play an increasing role in herd dynamics if the decline continues
  • The need for harvest data will necessitate a different approach to hunt reporting requirements

• Currently preparing an Intensive Management Feasibility Assessment
  • Poor productivity, high survival on calving grounds and land ownership patterns may limit our potential responses