

Proposal 85

Remove the exception for harvest tickets and reports for caribou for those portions of Alaska north of the Yukon River

- Department Recommendation:
 - DEFER the proposal for Units 18, 22, 23, and 26A to the Region 5 Arctic/Western Board meeting (Winter 2017)
 - SUPPORT the amendment for a general harvest ticket in Units 21, 24, 25, 26B and 26C (Region 3), to replace RC900
- Public Proposal

Advisory Committee Votes

- Kotzebue Sound, Upper Kobuk, Lower Kobuk, Noatak/Kivalina, Koyukuk & Yukon Flats ACs: Opposed
- Northern Norton Sound & Southern Norton Sound ACs: Defer to Region 5 Board meeting
- Middle Yukon AC: Support as amended by replacing existing registration system in Units 21 and 24 with a harvest ticket

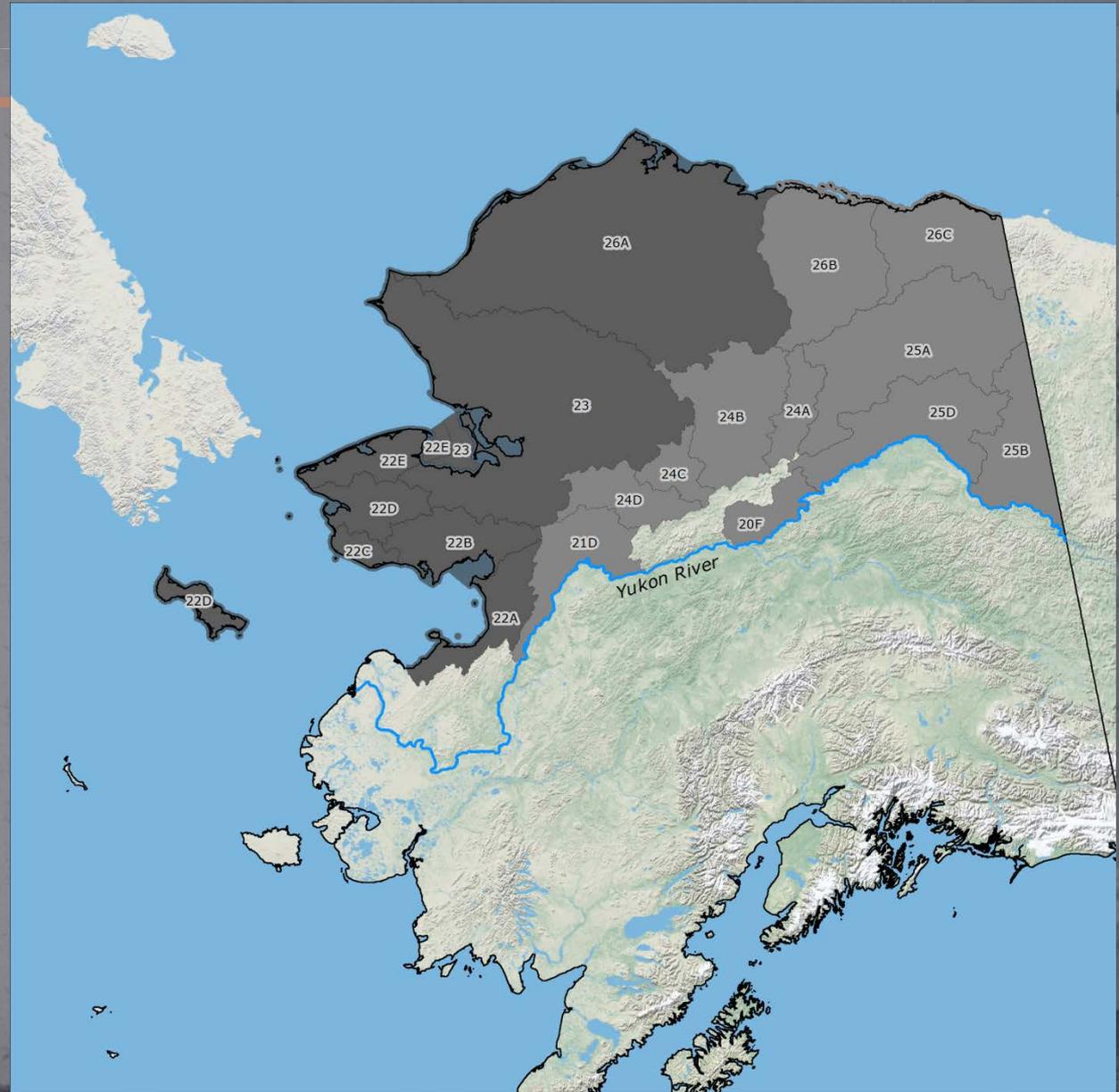
Background

- Existing registration system developed for harvest monitoring of the Western Arctic (WAH) & Teshekpuk Lake (TCH) herds within broad rural areas of northern Alaska;
- WAH and TCH herds are managed by Region 5 (Arctic/Western region);
- All other herds north of the Yukon River are managed by Region III (Interior and Northeastern region);
- Region 5 staff agree with the proponent that improved harvest reporting is necessary for effectively managing both herds during a period of population decline.

Hunter Registration Area

Region III Amended Option

- Low hunter participation and reporting
- Infrequent WAH occurrence
- Compromises management of other herds (HHH, RMH, WMH, GMH, CAH)
- Local Residents utilize other harvest reporting mechanisms



Background

- When the existing registration regulation was first implemented during the early 1980s, a short harvest questionnaire was sent to all hunters who registered;
- Registration system was developed because the harvest ticket system worked poorly or not at all in Region 5;
- When the herd became very large in size & not significantly affected by harvests, the questionnaire was discontinued during the early 1990s;
- Village harvest surveys conducted by Subsistence Division have confirmed that the harvest ticket and registration system has worked poorly for caribou.

Background

- Region 5 staff are working with the ACs, WAH Working Group and the public to develop a harvest reporting system that has some level of public support;
- In Proposal 140, staff requested that a registration permit system be implemented for Unit 22 where it has public support;
- The Region 5 public has become much more familiar with registration permit systems used for moose & muskoxen management.

Background

- Current harvest estimates for the WAH & TCH herds are developed using a statistical regression model that uses data from village harvest surveys & location data from GPS/satellite radio collars;
- Long-term goal is to incorporate additional harvest data into our statistical model for estimating overall harvest using the radio telemetry data in combination with reported harvest data.

Summary

- Harvest ticket reporting systems have traditionally not worked well in Region 5;
- When improved harvest reporting in Region 5 is needed for conservation reason as has occurred for some moose & muskox populations, some type of permit system has been implemented;
- Region 5 staff are working with the ACs & public now to develop a harvest reporting system for consideration at the winter 2017 Region 5 Board meeting;
- If Proposal 140 is amended as requested, staff will have a chance to evaluate how well a registration permit system works in Unit 22;
- SUPPORT the amendment for a general harvest ticket in Region 3.

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