

Note: The Board of Game does not have authority to increase tag fees.

PROPOSAL 146 – 5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. Open a guide-required nonresident drawing hunt for caribou in Unit 17B as follows:

I propose 14 nonresident caribou tags be issued by lottery for one bull caribou each for Unit 17B at the rate of \$1,000/tag to guided only nonresidents. Season dates to begin August 10 through August 19. Caribou hunts must be conducted by a licensed registered guide and may not be part any other hunting trip for another species.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I have been conducting hunts for brown bear in the area and am seeing more and more very nice mature caribou bulls during the fall brown bear season in each camp location. Many of these mature bulls will not be harvested by hunters and die of natural causes. There are not enough caribou to offer unlimited licenses in the area but the caribou dying of natural causes is a lost opportunity for the state to make some money and bring back the prestige of trophy caribou hunting to an area that was once famous for it. There is little or no caribou hunting pressure from residents in the area. There are many out of state hunters who would gladly put money into the state in tag costs, hunting license fees, guide fees, lodging fees, meals, gas and other logistics for an opportunity to hunt the Mulchatna herd once again. This would amount to approximately \$150,000 revenue being created by out of state hunters. This needs to be done or we face the area being forgotten as a trophy caribou hunting destination for hunters from across the globe. Running the season to begin August 10 through August 19 would allow nonresident hunters to target strictly caribou and while no brown bear or moose seasons were running which would extend the time outfitter services could make money while not overcrowding the area for other hunters. It is a win-win-win deal for sportsmen, businesses and the State of Alaska. I would be glad to discuss conservation issues at any time.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Dvorak

(EG-F17-002)
