

**ACR 3** – Modify the hunt structure for the Fortymile caribou herd in Units 20 and 25.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Mike Tinker

**CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.**

5 AAC 85.025. Seasons and bag limit for the Fortymile caribou herd.

**WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.**

The November 2017 population estimate was significantly higher than expected. High enough to "trigger" a higher harvest quota. Changes to season, area(s) and bag limit are necessary if Alaska hunters are going to harvest the higher quota. At 75,000 plus animals and a high growth rate it is an important opportunity to change now in order to reach the quota(s) and possibly slow the herd growth rate.

**WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?**

The season is set in regulation for different zones within the Fortymile harvest area. (Several Units or portions thereof.) The board should consider the option of opening all zones as early as August 10. The board should consider keeping the season open until the fall quota has been achieved. Also, the board should change the opening date for the winter hunt to November 1 and keep it open until the winter quota has been met.

**STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.**

- a) **for a conservation purpose or reason:** Partially because of the need to slow the herd growth rate.
- b) **to correct an error in regulation:** Not applicable.
- c) **to correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when the regulation was adopted:** The changes are necessary because of new population data which became available considerably after the proposal deadline. Not changing could cause a significant loss of opportunity.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?** Limiting harvest to the below 70,000 population quota(s) will eliminate nearly a doubling of the overall Alaska harvest quota. Hunters have been very patient for the 30 years of this herd's recovery from low population. There are habitat concerns that are being studied. Continued artificially low harvest will not decrease the growth rate.

The Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Coalition meets in late January (2018) and can provide their perspective on these issues if the board accepts this ACR.

**STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.**

This ACR deals with the herd biology and not who hunts them. Presently the herd has seasons for resident hunters, federally qualified subsistence hunters and nonresident hunters. The new regulations are to increase allocation in accordance with the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan.

**IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.** The board has previously approved the harvest plan (based on population and growth). We need enough season and bag limit consideration to have a chance to harvest the Alaskan quota.

**STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.** I am making this request as a resident hunter. (I am a member of both the Fairbanks Advisory Committee and the FCHM Coalition but I cannot speak or ask because neither body has had an opportunity to discuss these issues since the new population was known.

**STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.** Not considered previously.