

ACR #6 – Establish a hunt for caribou in Unit 10.

SUBMITTED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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

5 AAC 85.025. Seasons and bag limits for caribou.

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

Pending board action on Proposal 26 regarding a customary and traditional use determination for the Unimak Island caribou herd, this ACR, if passed, will provide an opportunity to increase caribou harvest on Unimak Island (Unit 10) and should not be delayed. High bull:cow and calf:cow ratios and an annual increase in the population by 10% annually can immediately provide a harvestable surplus of 10-25 bulls. Historically, the remoteness of the herd and small human population has not provided the level of harvest necessary to contain the herd within carrying capacity, which has led to declines in population and habitat quality.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

Establish a hunt for caribou in Unit 10. The Department of Fish and Game recommends a tiered hunt structure, with specific allocations to be determined pending the outcome of Proposal 26.

| Units and Bag Limits | Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts) | Nonresident Open Season |
|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| (5) | | |
| Caribou | | |
| Unit 10, Unimak Island only | [NO OPEN SEASON] | [NO OPEN SEASON] |

If the harvestable portion is XX caribou or less:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

**If the harvestable portion is greater than xx,
But less than XX caribou:**

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Dec. 31

If the harvestable portion is greater than XX, but less than XX caribou:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

3 caribou

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

3 caribou

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Dec. 31

If the harvestable portion is greater than XX:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

4 caribou

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

4 caribou

Aug. 1–Sept. 30
Nov. 15–Dec. 31

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

- 1) To correct an error in regulation.
- 2) To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.
- 3) Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?
- 4) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?

A harvestable surplus exists on the UCH for the first time in a number of years and this opportunity should be taken advantage of to provide hunting opportunities while controlling the trajectory of an increasing herd.

- 5) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

State harvest opportunity would be lost but federal opportunity would remain or increase since most Unimak Island is federal land. This proposal seeks to arrest growth of the herd.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

This ACR is to create a new state caribou hunt.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation, Region IV

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.

This ACR has not been considered before.