

Proposal 11

5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.

Reduce the bag limit for caribou in GMUs 22, 23, 26A to 4 bulls per year as follows:

What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

Reduce the harvest of caribou to “4 bulls per year” (no cow harvest)

Reduction in harvest limits for caribou for units in the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. Current regulations: 15 per year, 1 of which may be a cow.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

The SRC had a long discussion about the proposal for a continued reduction in harvest and the impact of cow harvest. Members are concerned for their neighbors who may need a cow to get food on the table—but understand that the population cannot support it. The SRC recognizes that they are making this decision not only for them, but others as well. The SRC believes that though it is incredibly difficult to say ‘no cow harvest’ it is important to make a bold statement in order to protect this herd for the future and that we all need to be proactive. “We are talking about the future of the herd. Taking a little more time to search for bulls is minimal effort.”

After this voting to submit this proposal, the SRC voted to support with a modification the WSA26-01 with the same language of “reducing the harvest of caribou in Unit 22, 23, 26ASW to 4 bull caribou, no cows.” The SRC believes it is important to align state and federal regulations for the same units above.

The SRC states that since this is a shared herd, there is value in aligning regulations across its range and we all must work together.

The SRC also asked NPS and other agencies to continue outreach, specifically highlighting why there should be no harvest of cows, and let people know the more extreme regulations that could occur if the WACH does not make a rebound. Finally, the SRC reminded everyone that the regulations are not set in stone, we need to do something now and hope we can increase again in the future.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

This proposal was written by the Kobuk Valley National Park Subsistence Resource Commission at their March 12-13 meeting in consultation with local ADFG caribou biologist.

The SRC is a nine-member Federal Advisory Council created in ANILCA 808. The SRC has three seats assigned by the Governor of Alaska.

The proposal will be presented to the Cape Krusenstern National Monument Subsistence Resource Commission and the Northwest Arctic Regional Advisory Council. The proposal will also be shared with the Kotzebue AC on March 23, and other local ACs.

PROPOSED BY: The Kobuk Valley National Park Subsistence Resource Commission (OI-F26-009)
