

Proposal 132

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

40 mile caribou herd Restrict Non-resident hunting in Zone 2 RC 860 Non-resident (except Non-resident Military) as follows:

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

Restrict Non-resident hunting in Zone 2

RC 860 Non-resident (except Non-resident Military) All Zones No Open Season.

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

The Fortymile Caribou hunt is a very popular hunt for the Alaskan Resident. With the severe herd decline from over 60,000 to 26,000 animals, the harvestable surplus has been reduced to less than 400.

The non-resident harvest for this herd is over 25% in Zones 1, 3 and 4. Zone 2 non-resident harvest is about 70% of the allowable 100 animal quota.

The unpredictable dates and short openings because of large concentration of animals in Zones 1, 3, & 4, and the closing of other caribou hunts have put pressure on Zone 2 by non-residents, where the season is open from Aug. 10th to Sept 30th. It is also easily accessible and targeted by commercial transporters. Zone 2 is a mainstay for the residents of the Salcha, Chena, and Goodpaster drainages, plus many other resident hunters.

Nonresident hunting in Zone 2 has reduced the resident opportunity by early closure dates for this hunt.

Because of the popularity of this hunt with residents and the low quota, this hunt should be for residents and severely restricted for non-residents in Zone 2.

Some other options other than a nonresident closure could be:

1. Non-resident with a guide only.
2. Reduced dates for Non-residents Aug.10th to Aug. 25th.
3. Have a Non-resident draw hunt, limiting the available number of tags based on quota.
4. Allow Non-resident military to hunt.

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

I have talked to resident hunters that Hunt Zone 2 and members of the Salcha River Property Owners along with gathering information from ADF&G.

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