

Proposal 136

5 AAC 85.025; 92.050. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou; Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Amend the YC831 draw hunt to add Fortymile caribou hunt zones 2 and 4 to the hunt area and extend the closure date to September 30 as follows:

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

This proposal would amend the YC831 draw hunt to add Fortymile caribou hunt zones 2 and 4 to the hunt area and extend the closure date to September 30.

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

The YC831 Fortymile caribou youth draw hunt is unnecessarily restrictive. It is intended to provide early-season opportunity and encourage youth participation in caribou hunting. The current August 1 - August 21 season occurs only in Zones 1 and 3. Over the past five years, the hunt has seen high hunter participation but, because caribou distribution varies widely from year to year, harvest success has fluctuated significantly, ranging from 23% to 88%.

Restricting the hunt to only two zones limits opportunity when the herd is not present in those areas. Allowing youth to hunt in all RC860 zones ensures access to whichever portion of the Fortymile range the herd may be present. Extending the season through September 30 would also increase the likelihood that youth hunters will encounter caribou. A longer season and a wider hunt area would provide greater flexibility for families, reduce reliance on unpredictable early August herd distribution, and support a more consistent and meaningful youth hunting experience.

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

This proposal was developed by the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Coalition, which includes representatives from Advisory Committees (Fortymile-Upper Tanana, Central, Fairbanks, Eagle, Delta, Anchorage, and Matanuska Valley) who represent hunters who have traditionally hunted the FCH. Development of the proposal also included consultation with state and federal agencies and other resource agencies. This proposal is part of an updated Fortymile Caribou Harvest Plan, which will be submitted to the Board.

PROPOSED BY: Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Coalition (OI-F26-200)
