

Proposal 22

5 AAC 92.106. Intensive management of identified big game prey populations.

Establish an intensive management plan within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH) as follows:

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

The Council is aware that ADF&G has begun conducting a feasibility study to assess the potential for implementing an IM plan to support the recovery of the WACH. While the Council is not certain of the anticipated timeline for completion of this study, it respectfully requests that ADF&G continue this work as needed. Additionally, the Council asks that an IM Plan be established at your January 2027 meeting, with the intent that implementation may begin as soon as it is determined to be feasible.

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

Establish an intensive management plan within the range of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WACH). The WACH’s population has been in decline for many years, and the herd is no longer an adequate subsistence resource for those that reside within their home range.

The population has been below 200,000 animals for five years, which is the trigger for Intensive Management (IM) set in statute. The Council was informed at our March 2026 meeting in Kotzebue that the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) was planning on conducting a study this spring in Unit 23 to evaluate the feasibility of instituting an IM program. The Council represents a region that is heavily dependent on the WACH and would like to see the next steps be taken to create an IM plan within the range of the WACH.

The Council recognizes that both wolf and bear seasons and harvest limits in Unit 23 are liberal under both Federal and State regulations, but we believe that additional help at removing predators would be highly beneficial to the recovery of the WACH.

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

No. The Council did hear information presented by the ADF&G on the health and population of the WACH and heard that other entities may be putting in a similar proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Northwest Arctic Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (OI-F26-133)
