

**Proposal 23**

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

Create an Intensive Management Plan to benefit the Western Arctic Caribou Herd as follows:

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

We propose that the BOG direct the ADF&G to implement an Intensive Management Plan to remove wolves and brown bears throughout the range of the WAH at a level high enough to expedite the recovery of this herd to its management objective of 200,000 or greater and to maintain predator removal for a minimum of five years once it meets or exceeds that objective.

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

The WAH caribou population is well below the management objective of 200,000 and enumerates 121,000 as of the summer of 2025. It has been declining for over 20 years. Bag limits have been reduced from 5 caribou per day with no closed season to 15 caribou per hunter per year of which only one cow could be harvested, and new proposals have been submitted to further reduce resident and non-resident bag limits and to allow only bull harvest. Hunters throughout the WAH range have reported an increase of wolf and brown bear populations and we believe that the BOG should authorize the ADF&G to implement a control program to remove wolves and brown bears throughout the WAH range (Units 22, 23 and 26ASW that is the Colville River drainage upstream from and including the Nuka River, and drainages of the Chukchi Sea south and west of, and including the Kuk and Kugrua drainages) to a level high enough to expedite the recovery of this herd to the management objective of 200,000 or greater for a minimum of five years once it meets or exceeds that objective.

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

This was developed by the North Slope Advisory Committee

**PROPOSED BY:** North Slope Fish & Game Advisory Committee (OI-F26-022)  
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