

Proposal 27

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

Modify the resident season for caribou in GMUs 22B and 22D as follows:

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

Open Season	Resident	
	(Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Units and Bag Limits		
(17)		
...		

Unit 22(B), that portion west of Golovnin Bay, and west of a line along the west bank of the Fish and Niukluk Rivers to the mouth of the Libby River, and excluding all portions of the Niukluk River drainage upstream from and including the Libby River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

15 caribou total, by registration permit only, only one of which may be a cow; **during the period Oct. 1 – Apr. 30, a season may be announced by emergency order,** cow caribou may not be taken Apr. 1 – Apr. 30

May be announced
[OCT. 1 – APR. 30]

up to 5 caribou per day during the period May 1 – Sept 30, a season may be announced by emergency order; cow caribou may not be taken Apr. 1 – Aug 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; during the period Aug 1 -
Sept 30, a season may be announced
by emergency order;

(Season to be
announced by
emergency order)

Unit 22(D), that portion in the
Pilgrim River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

15 caribou total, by
registration permit only,
only one of which may be
a cow; **during the period Oct. 1 –
Apr. 30, a season may be
announced by emergency order,**
cow caribou may not
be taken Apr. 1 – Apr. 30

May be announced
[OCT. 1 – APR. 30]

up to 5 caribou per day;
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May 1 – Sept 30, a season may
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order; cow caribou may not be
taken Apr. 1 – Aug. 31

(Season to be announced
by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull; during the period Aug. 1 -
Sept. 30, a season may be announced
by emergency order;

(Season to be
announced by
emergency order)

...

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

The Board of Game established the resident RC800 caribou hunting permit in Regulatory Year (RY) 2016 to allow for caribou hunting in Unit 22 while also preventing hunting in areas where active reindeer herding operations occur. These areas are noted in the regulations as “May Be Announced” seasons for residents under the RC800 permit and nonresidents hunting under the general season harvest ticket (HT) to allow the department to open these areas to caribou hunting by emergency order if caribou are observed in active reindeer ranges to minimize conflicts with Seward Peninsula reindeer herding. In RY2024 and RY2025, the department issued emergency orders to modify the season for caribou in those portions of 22D in the Pilgrim River drainage and 22B West of the Golovnin Bay areas in response to active reindeer herding efforts in the area.

Caribou from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WAH) have not been documented in these two portions of Unit 22 since 2015. If caribou are later confirmed to be in the area, the department has the ability to open the hunting season for residents and nonresidents at that time.

Because caribou are not present in the western portions of Units 22B and 22D identified in this proposal, hunting is being restricted to prevent the harvest of reindeer that may be mistakenly identified as caribou. If caribou were to enter areas of active reindeer herding, hunting seasons will be opened by the department to provide caribou harvest opportunity. Reindeer are categorized as domestic and can be privately owned in Alaska. As such, reindeer are not managed as game animals for harvest.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F26-031)
