

Tok Area - Units 12 & 20E

Proposal 129

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

Establish a Tier II hunt for the Fortymile caribou herd as follows:

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

Add a Tier II Subsistence hunting permit hunt for the Fortymile caribou herd (FCH) in Units 12, 20(D), 20(E), and 25(C) outside of the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Use Area. The number of permits available, seasons, and bag limits will need to be determined by the Board of Game (board).

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

(15)

...

Units 20(B) and 20(F), those portions south of the Yukon River, and north and east of a line formed by the Richardson Highway from the Unit 20(D) boundary to its intersection with the Steese Highway, north along the Steese Highway to its intersection with the Elliot Highway, then northwest along the Elliot Highway to its intersection with the Dalton Highway, then north along the Dalton Highway to the Yukon River, and Unit 20(D) that portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime
of a hunter, by youth hunt

Aug. 1—Aug. 21

drawing permit; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Up to 3 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
Oct. 21—Mar. 31

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1 - Mar. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 1—Aug. 21

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 30

...

Unit 20(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 1—Aug. 21

Up to 3 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
Oct. 21—Mar. 31

1 caribou by registration permit only, during a season for up to three days that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during the period Oct. 20 - Nov. 30; or

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1 - Mar. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 1—Aug. 21

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10—Sept. 30

...

(20)

...

Unit 25(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 1—Aug. 21

Up to 3 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 1—Sept. 30
Oct. 21—Mar. 31

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1 - Mar. 31

(Season to be announced by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; up to 30 total permits may be issued; or

Aug. 1—Aug. 21

1 bull by registration permit
only

Aug. 10—Sept. 30

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

Establish a Tier II hunt in regulation for the Fortymile caribou herd in Units 12, 20(D), 20(E), and 25(C), outside the Fairbanks Nonsubsistence Area (FNSA), as required by statute, in case a Tier II hunt is needed to further restrict the take of this game population to meet sustained yield and subsistence law mandates. The board made a positive customary and traditional use finding for the FCH in Units 12, 20(D), 20(E), and 25(C), outside the FNSA and determined an amount reasonably necessary for subsistence uses (ANS) of 350–400 caribou.

Following years of steady increase, the herd reached peak population size of 83,000 caribou in 2017, which was at or above the last peak observed in the early 1960s. The herd has now been declining over the past 9 years at an average of 14% per year. Lower parturition rates of 3-year-old cows, and reduced weights of newborn and four-month-old calves indicate the nutritional condition of the herd declined as the herd reached or exceeded the carrying capacity of the range. Lower annual survival and productivity, along with intentional reductions of the herd through an increase in harvest in 2020 and 2021 to lessen the impact to the range, resulted in a decline to 29,000 caribou by 2024 and a modeled estimate of 24,000–28,000 caribou in summer 2025. The department has not observed strong indication that productivity or annual survival have begun to improve, suggesting the herd is likely to continue to decline during the next several years.

The 2025 harvestable surplus was estimated at 480–560 bull caribou. However, if modeled estimates of decline continue, the population is projected to be 17,500 or fewer caribou at some point during 2028–2030. At this population level, harvestable surplus will drop below the lower bound of the ANS range and the board may wish to consider whether current regulations continue to provide reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses or whether replacing the current hunt structure with a Tier II hunt is necessary if harvestable surplus is unable to provide for all subsistence uses.

The current hunt structure was developed by the Fortymile Harvest Coalition and is outlined in the Fortymile Harvest Management Plan which has been reviewed and readopted by the board on a regular basis. It includes a fall and winter unlimited registration hunt in Units 20B, 20D, 20E, 20F, and 25C, with harvest quotas partitioned into zones to disperse hunting pressure and allow maximum hunting opportunity by various user groups and communities (Figure 1). A significant portion of the annual FCH range and harvest occurs in the FNSA in Units 20B, 25C, and 20D. Over the past 10 years, an average of 292 caribou were harvested annually from within the FNSA by resident hunters in the fall, representing 21% of the total annual fall harvest. Over the same time

period, an average of 114 caribou were harvested annually from within the FNSA by residents during the winter hunt, representing 16% of the total annual winter harvest. Over the past 10 years, satellite linked collars on FCH have shown that 69% of the collar locations occur outside the FNSA during the fall hunt period and 70% of the collar locations occur outside the FNSA during the winter hunt period.

The board may not authorize subsistence hunting in nonsubsistence areas. In these areas, the subsistence priority does not apply, which may complicate or limit regulatory options if a Tier II subsistence hunt is established, see again, Figure 1. Approximately 79% and 74% of the harvest in the fall and winter respectively occur outside of the FNSA. If the harvestable surplus is below the lower end of the ANS range, the state subsistence law states that opportunity shall be allocated according to Tier II criteria. If there is no Tier II regulation, then the department does not have the authority to distinguish among subsistence users and will be required to close all opportunity (all existing hunts including hunt areas outside the NSA) until the board can take action.

The board will need to determine appropriate seasons, bag limits, and the maximum number of Tier II subsistence permits that can be issued for the Tier II hunt.

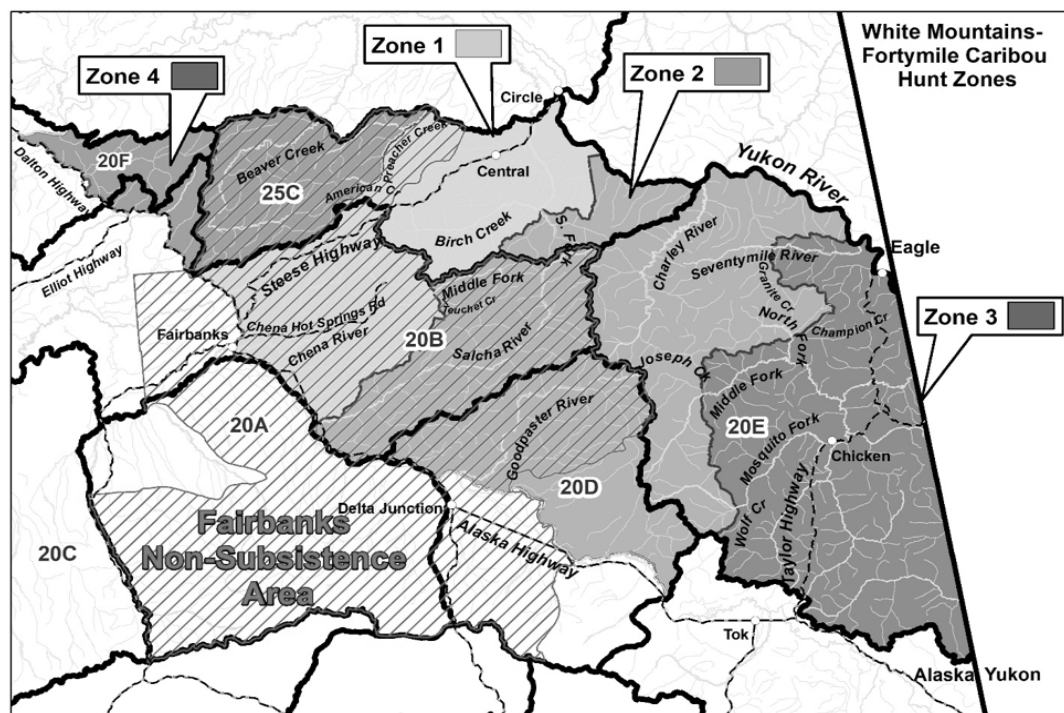


Figure 1. Fortymile caribou herd hunt zones and the Fairbanks Non-Subsistence Area. A color version can be found online at <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook>

Proposal 130

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

Make changes to non resident hunt allotment for 40 mile Caribou herd based on harvestable quota as follows:

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

When the overall quota is above 1,000, allow nonresident hunting in all zones.

When the quota is between 400 and 1,000, authorize nonresident hunting only in Zone 2 under a limited draw permit hunt. Issue nonresident draw permits equal to 50 percent of the Zone 2 quota. These draw permits would not be subject to emergency closures that may apply to the RC860 registration permit, providing predictable season dates for successful applicants.

When the quota is below 400, prohibit nonresident hunting in all zones.

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

The Fortymile Caribou Herd has continued to decline in recent years, resulting in substantial reductions to the fall RC860 harvest allocation. From 2021 to 2025, the quota decreased from 4,500 to 395, with an average annual reduction of roughly 31%. Throughout this period, the quota was divided among Zones 1, 2, 3, and 4 to distribute hunting pressure and opportunity across the herd's range.

From 2021 through 2024, resident hunters accounted for 75% of the total harvest, with nonresidents accounting for 25%.

In RY2025, this pattern shifted. During the state season, resident harvest fell to 35% while nonresident harvest rose to 65% of the total harvest. In Zone 2, nonresidents represented roughly half of the hunter effort yet accounted for 70% of the harvest. The zone closed early after reaching its quota in early September. Meanwhile, low zone quotas, large caribou concentrations near the Steese Highway, and high harvest during the federal season prevented Zones 1 and 4 from opening to state hunters without exceeding allowable harvest. Zone 3 remained open for the full season but yielded only single digit harvest despite receiving 56% of all hunter effort.

Across all zones over the past five years, nonresidents have averaged only about 17% of the total annual hunter effort and have consistently taken roughly 22% of the annual fall quota. Under low quotas, however, this distribution becomes increasingly consequential. Reduced allocations, short seasons, limited access, and zone closures disproportionately affect resident hunters who depend heavily on road-based opportunities. If the harvestable surplus continues to decline, maintaining reasonable resident opportunity within a registration permit system will require

revising when and where nonresident hunting is allowed and restructuring permit approaches to better align harvest opportunity and distribution with available quotas.

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-F26-199)

Proposal 131

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

In the RC 860 hunt eliminate nonresident hunting opportunity, except nonresident military, in Zones 1, 3, and 4 and shorten the nonresident season in Zone 2 as follows:

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

At this time, with the FCH in such a steep decline, we propose to eliminate nonresident hunting opportunity (except nonresident military) in Zones 1, 3, and 4 for the RC 860 hunt until such time as the herd increases and is stable. We also propose shortening the nonresident season in Zone 2 as follows:

RC 860 Nonresident (*nonresident military hunters are exempt*)

Zones 1, 3, & 4 – No Open Season

Zone 2 Aug 10 – Sept 5

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

Decline of Fortymile Caribou Herd + Unlimited Nonresident Opportunity

The Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) has declined to about 26,000 animals, well under the Intensive Management (IM) population objective of 50,000 – 70,000 animals. We are not close to meeting the IM harvest objective of 1,000 animals.

In 2025, nonresident caribou hunters harvested 40% of the total harvest from the FCH during the fall RC 860 hunt. Most all of those nonresidents are not nonresident military. (*charts courtesy ADF&G*).

RC860 Harvest by Residency									
Regulatory Year	Total Harvest	Total Resident Harvest (% of total harvest)		Total Resident - Single Harvest per Hunter (% of total Harvest)		% Resident Success Rate - Single Harvest per Hunter	Total Nonresident Harvest (% of total harvest)		% Nonresident Success Rate
2021	2581	2142	(83)	2127	(82)	(37)	439	(17)	(42)
2022	795	587	(74)	585	(74)	(15)	208	(26)	(27)
2023	834	649	(78)	642	(77)	(25)	185	(22)	(37)
2024	350	240	(69)	240	(69)	(13)	110	(31)	(34)
2025	213	128	(60)	106	(50)	(15)	85	(40)	(42)

In Zone 2, the season was closed 25 days early in 2025 due to the high number of nonresident fly-in hunters harvesting caribou. The Zone 2 quota was 100 bulls and the harvest was 121 bulls. Zone 2 is the primary area where air-taxis/transporters fly their nonresident clients. These air-taxis and transporters typically book clients well ahead of that year's hunt and may book clients throughout the Aug 10 – Sept 30 season. So, when the season closes early, the clients booked to hunt after the closure aren't allowed to hunt and trips must be canceled, which is hard on all involved.

~68% of the caribou harvest in Zone 2 in 2025 was from nonresident hunters. The only nonresident harvest in 2025 was from Zone 2, which was an outlier compared to other years. Zones 1 & 4 did not open in 2025 as scheduled due to abundant caribou near the highway and there were few caribou in Zone 3.

RC860 Harvests by Residency												
Regulatory Year	Zone 1			Zone 2			Zone 3			Zone 4		
	Resident	Nonresident	Total	Resident	Nonresident	Total	Resident	Nonresident	Total	Resident	Nonresident	Total
2021	1822	240	2062	74	143	217	208	45	253	38	11	49
2022	196	50	246	51	85	136	339	73	412	1	0	1
2023	604	105	709	38	77	115	6	2	8	1	1	2
2024	173	30	203	44	73	117	5	0	5	18	7	25
2025	79	0	79	36	85	121	6	0	6	7	0	7

As you can see from the chart below, nonresidents (both nonresident military and non-military) do hunt along the road system when the zones are open and caribou are available.

RC860 Hunters by Residency												
Regulatory Year	Zone 1			Zone 2			Zone 3			Zone 4		
	Resident	Nonresident	Total	Resident	Nonresident	Total	Resident	Nonresident	Total	Resident	Nonresident	Total
2021	4024	575	4599	184	198	382	1496	248	1744	106	24	130
2022	2288	385	2673	209	161	370	1423	221	1644	95	12	107
2023	1681	224	1905	156	152	308	661	115	776	29	8	37
2024	1080	139	1219	168	114	282	580	53	633	75	10	85
2025	127	2	129	139	128	267	440	70	510	10	1	11

During the last cycle, RHAK submitted a proposal to prohibit nonresident hunters from participating in the RC 860 fall hunt in Zones 1, 3, and 4. After discussions with air-

taxis/transporters we agreed to leave Zone 2 open to nonresident hunters. The board voted down our proposal saying that they did not want to prevent nonresident military hunters from participating in the RC 860 hunt along the road system. We tried to amend our proposal to exempt nonresident military hunters but there was confusion as to whether Alaska Wildlife Troopers could tell if a nonresident was military or not.

As we found out, while the RC 860 permit does not identify a nonresident vs a nonresident military hunter, the actual hunting license does identify whether a nonresident is military or not. So, Troopers can easily tell if a nonresident hunter is a nonresident military hunter.

Number of Nonresident Military Licenses Sold

In 2025, 614 nonresident military hunting licenses were sold, and 1, 327 nonresident military combo Hunt/Sport Fish licenses were sold. For the five years 2021 – 2025 the range of nonresident military hunt licenses sold was 560 - 625, and the range of nonresident military combo Hunt/Sport Fish licenses sold during that same time period was 1,327 – 1,560 (data from ADF&G License Statistics). We included this data for the board's information but have no way of knowing how many nonresident military hunters participate in the RC 860 caribou hunt.

Nonresident Military License

Below is a blank copy of a hunt/fish/trap license (front page). The arrows on the right point down to the nonresident military hunt or nonresident military hunt/sport fish boxes, one of which would be checked if that hunter was nonresident military.

STATE OF ALASKA SPORT FISHING, HUNTING, TRAPPING LICENSE										ANNUAL LICENSES EXPIRE DEC 31, AA 2026	
RESIDENT Requires Affidavit 11-524											
RES CLASS 01 \$20 Sport Fish	RES CLASS 02 \$45 Hunt	RES CLASS 3A \$65 Hunt/Trap	RES CLASS 3B \$25 Trap	RES CLASS 04 \$60 Hunt/Sport Fish	RES CLASS 05 \$85 Hunt/Trap/ Sport Fish	BLIND RES. CLASS 1A \$0.50 Sport Fish	BLIND RES. CLASS 2A \$45 Hunting				
REQUIRED FOR RESIDENT LICENSES When did your Alaska residency begin? Year _____ Month _____		License is not valid if more than one class is indicated. RES= Resident NR= Nonresident						RESIDENT TRAPPING LICENSES EXPIRE SEP 30, 2027. CLASS 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D and 9C valid for specified period only.			
INFORMATION REQUIRED - PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY FIRST _____ MI _____ LAST _____ GENDER _____ BIRTHDATE (MM.DD.YYYY) _____ ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE/PROVINCE _____ ZIP/POSTAL CODE _____ COUNTRY _____ DRIVER'S LICENSE OR ID _____ PHONE _____ EMAIL _____ State Number _____											
VENDOR COMPLETES THIS SECTION FOR ALL LICENSES ISSUED. VENDOR NUMBER _____ CLASS ISSUED _____ DATE ISSUED (MM.DD.YYYY) _____ I have read and understand the definition of Alaska "resident" (AS 16.05.415). My license has not been suspended or revoked in any state. This information is subject to public disclosure. Making false statements herein is subject to criminal penalties (AS 11.56.210, AS 16.05.420, & AS 16.05.665). I certify all the information is true and correct.											
X VENDOR SIGNATURE License not valid unless signed by both Licensee and Vendor.						X LICENSEE SIGNATURE					
NONRESIDENT START DATE AND END DATE FOR CLASSES 6A, 6B, 6C, 6D and 9C ONLY. START DATE _____ HOUR _____ AM _____ PM _____ END DATE _____ HOUR _____ AM _____ PM _____											
NR CLASS 6A 14-DAY \$75 Sport Fish	NR CLASS 6B 3-DAY \$30 Sport Fish	NR CLASS 6C 1-DAY \$15 Sport Fish	NR CLASS 6D 7-DAY \$45 Sport Fish	NR CLASS 9C \$205 Annual Hunt/ 7-Day Sport Fish	NR CLASS 07 \$100 Sport Fish	NR CLASS 08 \$45 Hunt	NR CLASS 8A \$60 Small Game				
NR CLASS 09 \$260 Hunt/ Sport Fish	NR CLASS 10 \$405 Hunt/Trap	NR ALIEN CLASS 15 \$630 Hunt	COMPLETE AFFIDAVIT ON BACK OF DEPARTMENT COPY BEFORE ISSUANCE OF THESE LICENSES CLASS 18 Original License Class \$5 Duplicate License RES CLASS 5A \$5 Low Income Hunt/Trap/ Sport Fish RES CLASS 5B \$2 Duplicate class 5A Low Income NR YUKON CLASS 11 \$20 Sport Fish NR MILITARY CLASS 12 \$20 Sport Fish NR MILITARY CLASS 16 \$45 Hunt NR MILITARY CLASS 17 \$60 Hunt/Sport Fish								

Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Licensing, PO Box 115525, Juneau AK 99811-5525 (907)465-2376

DEPARTMENT COPY

PRESS DOWN FOR CLEAR COPIES

On the back of the license there is a section in the bottom right that one fills out under penalty of perjury in order to receive a nonresident military license at a reduced cost.

AFFIDAVIT SUPPORTING LICENSE APPLICATION Complete the appropriate section and sign below.

RESIDENT LOW INCOME - Class 5A I am entitled to the Resident Hunting, Sport Fishing and Trapping License for a fee of \$5.00 for the following reason: ☐ I am the head of a family, or a dependant of a family; or ☐ I am solely dependent on myself for support. AND My family/household annual income for the preceding year is equal to or less than the poverty guidelines for Alaska set by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. AS 16.05.340(a)(6) Low-Income (Poverty) Guidelines may be found at the following web-site: https://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty-guidelines By signing this affidavit and purchasing a Resident Low Income (Class 5A) License I authorize the release of information by the Division of Public Assistance to the Department of Fish and Game necessary to verify my participation in any need-based program which qualifies me for this special category license and to the Department of Public Safety as necessary to investigate false claims for this license. A family's gross annual income must include all sources of income for ALL family members including permanent fund dividends, as well as any other dividends or interest payments received. A person must provide proof of eligibility under this paragraph when requested by the Department of Fish and Game or the Department of Public Safety. SURCHARGE DISCLOSURES (per AS16.05.340) HUNTING: A Wildlife Intensive Management Surcharge has been applied to all hunting licenses; Resident Hunting Licenses: \$10, Nonresident Hunting Licenses: \$30. NOTE: Making a false statement, or omitting a material fact, is subject to a maximum penalty of \$25,000 and/or 1 year imprisonment under AS 11.56.210 and 16.05.420, 665. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Licensing, PO Box 115525, Juneau AK 99811-5525 (907)465-2376	DUPLICATE LICENSE - Classes 18 and 5B I hereby report the loss of my current Sport License issued to me in accordance with the Department of Fish and Game statutes and regulations as indicated below: <table border="1"><tr><td>License Class (REQUIRED)</td><td>License Number (if known)</td><td>Date of Issuance</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">Issued By (Name of License Vendor)</td><td>Place of Issuance</td></tr></table> NONRESIDENT YUKON RECIPROCAL SPORT FISHING LICENSE - Class 11 <table border="1"><tr><td>Yukon Resident Sport Fishing License Number</td><td>Yukon Government Issued ID. Number</td></tr></table> NONRESIDENT MILITARY - Classes 12, 16 and 17 (Must be stationed in Alaska) I am entitled to the special nonresident Military License for the following reason: ☐ I am a member of the military service on active duty permanently stationed in Alaska; or ☐ I am a dependant of a member of the military service on active duty permanently stationed in Alaska. <table border="1"><tr><td>Branch of Military Service</td><td>Rank and I.D. Number</td></tr><tr><td>Assigned Duty Station</td><td>If a dependant, what is relationship?</td></tr></table> NOTE: Please read definition of resident to determine residency status. I hereby certify under penalty of perjury that all the above information is true and correct. <table border="1"><tr><td>X LICENSEE SIGNATURE</td><td>DATE</td></tr></table>	License Class (REQUIRED)	License Number (if known)	Date of Issuance	Issued By (Name of License Vendor)		Place of Issuance	Yukon Resident Sport Fishing License Number	Yukon Government Issued ID. Number	Branch of Military Service	Rank and I.D. Number	Assigned Duty Station	If a dependant, what is relationship?	X LICENSEE SIGNATURE	DATE
License Class (REQUIRED)	License Number (if known)	Date of Issuance													
Issued By (Name of License Vendor)		Place of Issuance													
Yukon Resident Sport Fishing License Number	Yukon Government Issued ID. Number														
Branch of Military Service	Rank and I.D. Number														
Assigned Duty Station	If a dependant, what is relationship?														
X LICENSEE SIGNATURE	DATE														

It is possible for troopers to distinguish between a nonresident hunter and a nonresident military hunter. A regulation that only allows nonresident military hunters is enforceable.

With the FCH in such a steep decline, we don't believe there should be any non-military nonresident hunting at all, however, we recognize that the fly-in portion of Zone 2 is important to air-taxis and transporters who cater to nonresident hunters and we'd like to provide some nonresident opportunity in Zone 2, albeit with a shorter season. With the decline of the herd and reduced quotas, we believe a shorter nonresident season in Zone 2 is best for everyone. That ensures there is some opportunity without the likelihood of going over the quota and the season closing early.

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

Thank you to Department staff for providing the data and information!

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska (OI-F26-090)

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.

PROPOSED BY: Kenneth Armstrong (OI-F26-111)

Proposal 133

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

40 mile caribou hunt be restricted to residents only and made into a tier two hunt as follows:

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

40 mile caribou

With the current size of 40 mile Caribou herd offering greatly reduced hunting opportunities. The previous very liberal harvest opportunities no-longer exist. Nonresident hunters should be excluded from hunting this herd till numbers recover enough to exceed the resident hunter demand. There simply is not enough population available to offer these animals to nonresidents currently. Or conversely offer this as a tier two hunt for those who historically have hunted this herd till numbers recover enough to allow a general harvest again.

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

40 Mile Caribou,

Herd size decline limiting hunting opportunity.

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

I propose the 40 mile hunt be restricted to residents only and be made a tier two hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Ranchoff

(OI-F26-044)

Proposal 134

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

Establish a resident only draw hunt for the fall RC 860 hunt whenever the herd population estimates are at or below roughly 28,000 as follows:

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

Establish a draw hunt for the fall RC 860 hunt whenever the herd population estimates are at or below roughly 28,000. This hunt would be resident only hunt and only available in zones one and four proposal. The up to number for the draw should be proportional to what the quota for that zone would have been. switching to a draw hunt when herd numbers are low allows fir a predictable harvest in a bull only hunt and prevents the possibility of over harvest that are a registration hunt could allow.

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

The current 40 mile herd manager has been extremely conservative over the past few years, even when there is a harvestable surplus of animals available, and as such as restricted hunting opportunity even to the point of not allowing a fall hunt. Finding an alternate means for opportunity needs to be explored so that hunters can still participate while allowing room for herd growth.

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

As a member of the Fairbanks AC, we have discussed this topic multiple times, but I chose to make this proposal on my own.

PROPOSED BY: Eric Anslinger (OI-F26-123)

Proposal 135

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

Adjust the season opener of the forty mile RC860 hunt to Aug 5th as follows:

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

New hunt codes would be as follows

RC860 season dates Aug 5-Sept 30 (or until the quota is met)

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

Adjust the season opener of the forty mile RC860 hunt to Aug 5th. State managers should not be deferring to federal managers by allowing federal harvest before state allocation. That would be in conflict of article 8 of the state constitution and falls out of line from section E of the statehood act where the state was given sole management of its wildlife by the same federal government. I would encourage managers to support all Alaskan's opportunities.

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

Yes, the Fairbanks AC developed this proposal.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee (OI-F26-167)

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)

Proposal 137

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

Limit the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 20 Caribou drawing hunt YC831, to “Up To” 10% of the available permits as follows:

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

Limit the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 20 Caribou drawing hunt YC831, to “Up To” 10% of the available permits. If at least 10 permits are not available a Non-Resident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by Non-Residents for Caribou drawing hunt YC831. There is currently no allocation cap on how many tags may be drawn by Non-Residents.

Non-Residents are drawing a consistently high proportion of the tags for high demand drawing hunts. Caribou hunting in Alaska is the only state in the Union that has opportunity to hunt Alaska-Yukon Barren Ground Caribou unguided as a US Citizen, making it a highly desirable opportunity. Both Residents and Non-Residents compete for the tags equally in the Big Game Drawing which means Alaska Residents receive no preference in the drawing. Additionally this is a Youth Caribou hunt.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Craig Van Arsdale

(OI-F26-192)

Proposal 138

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

Amend the seasons dates of AC999 targeted to October 1- March 31 as follows:

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

Amend the seasons dates of the AC999 targeted. The regulation would read “1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during October 1 – March 31 (Season to be announced by emergency order).

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

Under current regulation, the Fortymile caribou targeted permit hunt, AC999 may only be implemented by emergency order between December 1 - March 31. This hunt is intended to provide Alaska resident opportunity if the use of the Fortymile caribou winter registration hunt, RC867, presents a risk of exceeding the quota. The AC999 hunt is an important management tool used to alleviate overharvest risk when large numbers of caribou are near roadways or when other management concerns arise, while still allowing hunting opportunities for residents in specific zones. Those conditions are not date-related and could occur at any time during the winter season. Aligning the allowable use period for AC999 with the beginning date of the RC867 winter hunt, October 27, would enable managers to authorize limited hunting opportunities during a larger time frame in the winter instead of issuing full closures.

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-F26-197)

Proposal 139

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

Redefine the boundaries of Zones 1 and 4 to isolate the core remote section of the current Zone 4 as follows:

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

Redefine the boundaries of Zones 1 and 4 to isolate the core remote section of the current Zone 4. By constricting Zone 4 to more remote areas of the Beaver Creek and Victoria Creek drainages, managers gain the flexibility to leave this zone open even when road-accessible quotas in Zone 1 are met or risk of overharvest exists. Given relatively low hunter effort and harvest rates, this proposal is unlikely to impact the sustainability of the herd, while providing significantly more predictable seasons and improved opportunities for remote hunters.

Additionally, this adjustment aligns the zone boundaries with the universal coding units used for departmental harvest reporting. This administrative alignment will improve the accuracy of harvest data and streamline the reporting process for both hunters and department staff.

Altered zone descriptions would read as follows:

Zone 1:

Unit 20B, that portion within the Chatanika River drainage north and east of the Steese Highway, those portions north and west of the Steese Highway, those portions north and east of the Elliot Highway and that portion south and east of the Steese Highway, excluding the Middle Fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including the Teuchet Creek drainage and excluding the Salcha River drainage.

Unit 20F, those portions north and west of the Steese Highway, north and east of the Elliot Highway to its intersection with the Dalton Highway, then east of the Dalton Highway and south of the Yukon River, excluding the Chatanika River drainage.

Unit 25C, excluding that portion within the drainage of the South Fork of Birch Creek, excluding that portion within the Yukon–Charley Rivers National Preserve, and excluding that portion of 25C within the Beaver Creek and Victoria Creek drainages between and including the Moose Creek drainage and Fossil Creek drainage.

Zone 4:

Unit 25C, that portion within the Beaver Creek and Victoria Creek drainages, between and including the Moose Creek drainage and Fossil Creek drainage.

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

The Fortymile Caribou Herd has declined in recent years, resulting in reduced harvest allocations. As these limits become more restrictive, precise management is required to provide adequate hunting opportunity without overshooting established quotas. The current shared quota between Zone 1 and Zone 4 creates an avoidable management challenge and unnecessarily limits opportunity in remote areas. Zone 1 includes the Steese Highway corridor, where caribou can be highly accessible. As a result, harvest can increase quickly, raising the risk of exceeding the quota. To prevent this, managers often close both Zone 1 and Zone 4 at the same time because they are linked under the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan. However, Zone 4 differs significantly from Zone 1; it is a remote area with limited access, strict vehicle restrictions, and low hunting pressure. Over the past five seasons, Zone 4 has accounted for an average of about 2% of total hunting effort and 1.8% of the harvest. Under the current hunt structure, hunters seeking a remote experience in Zone 4 may be affected by closures driven by high harvest levels or caribou presence along the road system in Zone 1. This reduces opportunity across the northern portion of the hunt area, even though harvest in Zone 4 poses little risk to the total harvest cap.

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 Management 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.

Proposal 140

5 AAC 92.011. Taking of game by proxy.

Prohibit proxy hunting in Units 20B, 20D, 20E, 20F, and 25C for caribou under the Fortymile registration hunts as follows:

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

Proxy hunting in Units 20B, 20D, 20E, 20F and 25C for caribou under the Fortymile registration hunts RC860 and RC867 should be prohibited.

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

Proxy hunting is currently allowed for the RC860 and RC867 caribou registration hunts in Units 20B, 20D, 20E, 20F, and 25C. The Fortymile caribou herd has been declining for several years and is now below its intensive management population and harvest objectives. As a result, harvest quotas have been reduced and allocated across zones. These low and zone distributed quotas mean that every individual harvest has a proportionally greater effect on achieving management goals and maintaining harvest distribution across the hunt area. During periods of reduced availability, allowing proxy hunting can unintentionally concentrate harvest among a smaller number of households and limit

overall hunter participation. Eliminating proxy hunting will help ensure that limited harvest opportunity is more evenly distributed among residents across all zones.

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.

Proposal 141

5 AAC 85.045. Hunting seasons and bag limits for moose.

Close the August 24-28 seasons for Moose hunting in unit 20E as follows:

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

Close the August 24-28 seasons in unit 20E.

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

A large decline in Moose numbers, corresponding decrease in harvest and an increase in hunting pressure.

In the last five years we have lost 50 percent of the Moose in 20E. Bull cow ratios have dropped significantly since 2006.

There is currently a predator control program in 20E due to the low numbers of Moose.

Back in the early 2000s this committee submitted a proposal to put the August 24-28 seasons in place, the board of game passed it and the first August 24-28 season was opened in 2006. At the time Moose numbers were trending up and the committee's goal was to provide additional hunting opportunity that would largely be utilized by residents of 12 and 20E. Initially it was very successful. In 2006 twelve Moose were taken seven of them by local hunters.

Things have changed over the last 20 years, in 2025 six moose were taken in the August season with zero by local hunters. Overall hunter numbers have increased dramatically with a decrease in local hunters. The August season in today's world tends to exasperate this issue. Hunters are coming from far and wide in the August season, they are hunting, setting up large camps and leaving them set up thereby "Claiming a hunting area". They in many cases leave and then return when the September season opens. This is serving to displace local hunters.

Another problem with the August season is meat care, some years the temperatures in this area can be in the 70s and low 80s. Taking proper care of the meat especially if you are a long way from home can be nearly impossible. The trail systems have vastly expanded and the distance people are going off of the Taylor highway on these trails has increased significantly, Increasing travel time. There are no commercial processing facility's available in the local area.

We believe this is a conservation, allocation and a meat care issue at this point.

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

This proposal was developed and submitted by the Upper Tanana 40-Mile Advisory committee with information being supplied by ADFG in Tok at our request.

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish & Game Advisory Committee (OI-F26-193)

Proposal 142

5 AAC 99.025. Permit for exporting a raw skin.

Determine customary and traditional use of Dall sheep in Unit 12 and Unit 20, for that portion outside of the Tok Management Area and the Delta Management Area as follows:

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

5 AAC 99.025. Customary and traditional uses of game populations.

Determine customary and traditional use of Dall sheep in Unit 12 and Unit 20, for that portion outside of the Tok Management Area and the Delta Management Area.

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

During the 2024 Region 3 Board of Game (board) meeting in Fairbanks, the board considered proposals that increased opportunity for sheep hunting in Unit 12 and Unit 20, that portion outside of the Tok Management Area and the Delta Management Area, for residents and nonresidents. However, the board has not yet made a customary and traditional use finding for sheep in this area. Because this area is outside a nonsubsistence area, 5AAC 99.010(b) requires the board identify game populations, or portions thereof, that are customarily and traditionally taken or used by Alaska residents for subsistence uses by considering the eight criteria found at 5AAC 99.010(b)(1-8).

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F26-036)

Proposal 143

5 AAC 92.1XX. New Regulation.

Implement an intensive management predator control plan within the Tok Management Area to benefit Dall Sheep as follows:

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

Implement an intensive management predator control plan within the Tok Management Area to benefit Dall Sheep as follows:

Implement an intensive management predator control plan within the Tok Management Area (TMA) via aerial coyote and wolf control. Aerial coyote and wolf shooting would be allowed via private fixed wing aircraft and retrieval of coyotes and wolves would be allowed via private rotorcraft or fixed wing aircraft. In addition, the Department could remove coyotes and wolves using helicopters if necessary to supplement private efforts to meet removal objectives.

Our goal for predator control is to help the sheep population recover to historic averages more quickly than if intervention did not occur. We propose predator control be conducted until the

sheep population recovers to the long-term (2006-2019) averages. Alternatively, we propose the predator control cease following five years if there are no signs that the control is positively impacting population growth.

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

The Tok Management Area (TMA) Sheep population, like many sheep populations throughout Alaska, is currently at a historic low. The total number of sheep observed by the department during their 2025 survey with the TMA survey area was 261, which is 77% fewer than the 2006-2019 (pre-crash) average of 1145 sheep. Furthermore, the number of sheep observed in 2025 was 69% fewer than the previous low number of sheep observed in 2024 (n=835), which followed the very late spring in 2013. The current population decline has resulted in a historic low number of draw sheep permits awarded during fall 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025. Prior to these years, the lowest number of permits awarded was 60, while only ten permits have been issued annually since 2022.

Although we recognize that weather is likely the primary contributing factor to the current decline, predation is likely an additional contributing factor. According to the department sheep research conducted in Unit 20A during the early 2000s, coyotes are one of the primary predators of lambs, while wolf predation also occurs at a lower level. We believe managing predation could help the TMA sheep population recover.

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

Yes, this proposal was developed by the Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish & Game Advisory Committee

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish & Game Advisory Committee (OI-F26-196)

Proposal 144

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

Limit the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 20 Sheep drawing hunt DS206, to “Up To” 20% of the available permits as follows:

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

Limit the Non-Resident permit allocation for the Unit 20 Sheep drawing hunt DS206, to “Up To” 20% of the available permits. If at least 5 permits are not available a Non-Resident permit will not be available.

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

Limit the number of tags that may be drawn by Non-Residents for Sheep drawing hunt DS206.

There is currently no allocation cap on how many tags may be drawn by Non-Residents.

Non-Residents are drawing a consistently high proportion of the tags for high demand drawing hunts. Dall Sheep hunting in Alaska is the only state in the Union that has opportunity to hunt Dall Sheep, making it a highly desirable opportunity. Both Residents and Non-Residents compete for the tags equally in the Big Game Drawing which means Alaska Residents receive no preference in the drawing.

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

No

PROPOSED BY: Craig Van Arsdale

(OI-F26-178)

Proposal 145

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

For Dall Sheep hunting in the Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area remove non resident opportunity and reduce resident opportunity as follows:

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

Sheep Unit 20E

Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area

Resident: One ram with full-curl horn or larger by draw permit only DS XXX Aug 10 – Sept 20 (up to 5 permits)

Nonresident: No Open Season

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

**Nonresident Sheep Hunting Opportunity in Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area (GMCUA)
Resident Sheep Hunting Opportunity in GMCUA**

Sheep hunting opportunity in the GMCUA has been closed since 2024 From the Department's announcement:

(Tok, Alaska) – All sheep seasons within the Glacier Controlled Use Area, in a portion of Unit 20E, will be closed for the 2026 season, to address public concerns for sheep in this area. This closure will only impact the 2026 season.

“The GMCUA was created in 1971 to provide greater protection for sheep that used the Glacier Mountain area. Sheep within the GMCUA are part of the larger Tanana Hills sheep population, which exists in marginal, non-contiguous sheep habitat over an expansive area of eastern interior Alaska.

The GMCUA contains a small segment of the Upper Tanana Dall sheep population. Harsh winters in 2020 and 2021 corresponded with a steep decline in sheep populations statewide. Few sheep have been observed in the GMCUA since 2019, and no legal rams have been observed or harvested in the area since 2021.

Although the full-curl harvest strategy is an extremely conservative approach to hunting management, there are times when more conservative strategies are warranted to address public concerns.

Consequently, the GMCUA was initially closed for the 2024 sheep season and will be closed again for the 2026 season.”

When/if sheep hunting opportunity is again allowed in the GMCUA, there should be no nonresident sheep hunting opportunity allowed. Small, isolated sheep populations like this one in the Yukon-Tanana uplands are of concern and should be reserved for resident sheep hunting only when sheep hunting is allowed.

Any resident sheep hunting opportunity (should this area open again) should be by draw permit only with a limited number of tags.

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

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(OI-F26-092)

Proposal 146

5 AAC 92.010(l); 92.165(a). Harvest tickets and reports; Sealing of bear skins and skulls.

Remove the requirement for hunters to possess a black bear harvest ticket prior to hunting black bears in Units 12 and 20E, and require all black bears taken in Units 12 and 20E to be sealed as follows:

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

5 AAC 92.010(l)

For black bear, a person may not hunt black bear in Units 1-7, 11, 13-16, [AND] 20(A), 20(B), 20(C), 20(D), and 20(F), except when a permit is required, unless the person has in possession a harvest ticket for the species and has obtained a harvest report (issued with the harvest ticket).

5 AAC 92.165(a)

Sealing is required for hides and skulls of brown bear taken in any unit in the state, hides and skulls of black and brown bear taken in any unit in the state before the hide or skull is sold, hides and skulls of black bear of any color variation taken from January 1 through May 31, and skulls of black bear of any color variation taken from June 1 through December 31 in Units 1-7, 12, 14(A),

14(C), 15-7, [AND] 20(B), and 20(E). The seal must remain on the skin until the tanning process has commenced. A person may not possess or transport the untanned skin or skull of a bear taken in a unit where sealing is required, or export from the state the untanned skin or skull of a bear taken anywhere in the state, unless the skin or the skull, or both as required in this section have been sealed by a department representative within 30 days after the taking, or a lesser time if requested by the department...

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

Harvest ticket requirements for black bear were adopted by the Board of Game in the late 2000s with the intent of improving effort data in areas experiencing high hunting pressure. However, many hunters harvest black bears incidentally while targeting other species or opportunistically while in the field. As a result, reported days hunted may be biased or mischaracterized. In addition, hunters may pursue black bears in this incidental manner across multiple game management units, which cannot be effectively captured under the current reporting framework.

Black bear populations are not currently monitored in Units 12 and 20E, as survey and inventory methods have proven inefficient and costly relative to the level of harvest and hunting pressure. Harvest levels in these units are estimated to be sustainable for Units 12 and 20E, with a combined annual harvest of 49–72 bears (total = 326) recorded between regulatory year (RY) 20 and RY24. During this same period, only 66 bears were sealed, likely to meet export requirements. Currently, success and effort data are not needed to manage black bear populations in Units 12 and 20E.

Implementing mandatory sealing and removing harvest ticket requirements could provide a more reliable method for documenting harvest trends and facilitate collection of additional geographic and biological data. Sealing also creates opportunities for premolar aging and tissue collection by the department, which may yield more meaningful population indices than effort, success, or harvest data alone, while also reducing reporting requirements for hunters. This change would not require any modification to the salvage requirement regulations because all areas with mandatory sealing are already addressed under 5 AAC 92.220(a)(3), which specifies salvage requirements for black bears taken in units where sealing is required. However, the change will alter the salvage requirements for black bears taken in Units 12 and 20E because salvage requirements are tied to sealing requirements. Currently, salvage requirements for black bears taken in Units 12 and 20E requires only the edible meat be salvaged if taken between January 1 and May 31, and either the edible meat or the hide must be salvaged if taken between June 1 and December 31. By requiring sealing, hunters that harvest a black bear in Units 12 and 20E will be required to salvage the edible meat, the hide, and the skull of black bears taken between January 1 and May 31, and either the skull and the edible meat or the skull and the hide of black bears taken between June 1 and December 31.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-F26-024)

Proposal 147

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Lengthen muskrat trapping season 5 days to start on Sept 15th as follows:

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

Lengthen muskrat trapping season in Units 12 and 20E as follows:

SEPT 15 [Sept 20] through Jun 10

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

Lengthen muskrat trapping season 5 days to start on Sept 15th. That aligns the season with current beaver trapping season and muskrat season in the rest of Unit 20.

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

This proposal was developed by the Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish & Game Advisory Committee

PROPOSED BY: Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish & Game Advisory Committee

(OI-F26-194)
