

**Findings for the Alaska Board of Game
2019-223-BOG
Board Recommendation to the Department of Fish and Game
for Allocation of Nelchina Caribou Permits
January 15, 2019**

The Board of Game finds as follows, based on information provided by Department staff, Alaska residents and other wildlife users:

The Board recommended the Department take the following actions for allocating Nelchina caribou harvests:

- 1) When the Nelchina caribou herd is above the upper end of the population objective in 5 AAC 92.108:
 - a) The one Community Subsistence Harvest hunt will be held; and
 - b) the two Tier I registration hunts will be held; and
 - c) the one youth drawing hunt will occur, the bag limit is one caribou, and up to 200 permits may be issued; and
 - d) the one resident drawing hunt will occur, the bag limit is one caribou, and up to 5,000 permits may be issued; and
 - e) the one nonresident drawing hunt will occur, the bag limit is one bull, and up to 200 permits may be issued; and
 - f) all 200 youth drawing permits will be issued each year, and the number of resident and nonresident permits to be issued will be enough that the Department would project to reach the harvestable surplus (also referred to as the quota), but not more than 5,000 and 200 respectively.

- 2) When the Nelchina caribou herd is within the population objective:
 - a) the one Community Subsistence Harvest hunt will be held; and
 - b) the two Tier I registration hunts will be held; and
 - c) all 200 youth drawing permits will be issued, and the number of resident and nonresident permits to be issued will be enough that the Department would project to reach the harvestable surplus (also referred to as the quota), but not more than 5,000 and 50 respectively. The nonresident permits will be issued after all 5,000 resident drawing permits are issued.


- 3) When the caribou population is below the management objectives and when the estimated harvestable surplus will not be adequate to meet the lower end of the amount reasonably necessary for subsistence:
 - a) a resident only Tier II hunt will be administered in the next application cycle; and
 - b) the Community Subsistence Harvest hunt will not be held in the subsequent year but will be held if applications are received and permits announced; and
 - c) Neither Tier I registration hunt will be held in the subsequent year, but will be held if applications are received and permits announced; and

- d) the one youth drawing hunt will be held if permit winners have been announced, but will not be held if permit winners have not been announced; and
- e) the one resident drawing hunt will be held if permit winners have been announced, but will not be held if permit winners have not been announced; and
- f) the one nonresident drawing hunt will be held if permit winners have been announced, but will not be held if permit winners have not been announced.

In an effort to reduce hunter confusion and maintain hunt consistency the Department will in some cases allow hunts to run their course and management action will be taken in the following year. For example, issued permits will be allowed to be hunted but quotas and/or seasons may be reduced, and/or the number of available permits may be reduced the following year.

If population objectives change, the Board may revisit this plan.

Vote: 6-0
Adopted: January 15, 2019
Petersburg, Alaska



Ted Spraker, Chair
Alaska Board of Game