

PROPOSAL 217

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

Eliminate all caribou drawing permit hunts in Unit 13 as follows:

Eliminate draw permit hunts in Game Management Unit 13 for Nelchina caribou and comply with Section 16.05.258 regulatory law and criteria.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Remove all Unit 13 caribou draw permit hunts from the regulations. Remove resident draw permit hunt DC485 with a season of August 20 – September 20 and October 21-March 31.

Remove nonresident draw permit hunt DC475 with a season of August 20 – September 20 regulations.

Unit 13 Nelchina Caribou calf survival is below management objective.

This past year DC485 was closed on January 10, 2021, RC561, RC562 and CC001 were closed on January 22, 2021. Unit 13 Nelchina caribou season was closed due to overharvest by draw permits, and Tier I permit hunt.

Good snow conditions, warm winter, and the Nelchina caribou herd staying in Unit 13 throughout the winter provided easy access to harvest caribou. Consequently, ADF&G deemed it best to combine CC001, RC561 and RC562 and closed the caribou season.

Draw hunt permittees were allowed to harvest 817 Nelchina caribou and CC001 hunters were only allowed to harvest 292 caribou before the Unit 13 caribou hunting season was closed.

Section 16.05.258 was not complied with, whenever consumptive uses for caribou cannot be met for all users, subsistence Tier II criteria must be applied. CC001 hunt quota was not reached (400 quota), yet CC001 subsistence hunt was closed before the season ended. The draw hunt was kept open far too long. The draw hunt should have been closed in January 2021, and CC001 should have been kept open until March 31st.

Eliminate the draw permit hunts for Unit 13 Nelchina caribou and comply with Section 16.05.095 subsistence laws whenever a decision is to be made to close the caribou hunting season.

PROPOSED BY: Ahtna Tene Nene’

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