

Proposal to the Federal Subsistence Board

Proponent: Kenneth Nukwak

Issue

Close Federal public lands in portions of Units 17A and 17C to caribou hunting by non-federally qualified users and to federally qualified subsistence users, except by residents of Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clark's Point and Ekuk regardless of the population size of the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Herd (NPCH). These were the regulations for the NPCH prior to 2018, and I would like to change them back to how they were in 2016.

Regulation to change

Unit 17—Caribou

Unit 17—Units 17A and 17C, that portion of 17A east of the Ungalikthluk River and South of Buchia Ridge, and within the lower Kuluklak River drainage south of Buchia Ridge and within the Kanik River drainage downstream of the Tithe Creek, that portion of 17C south of the Igushik River and south of and including the Tuklung River drainage—up to 5 caribou by Federal registration permit (FC102)

Aug. 1 – Mar. 31

Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of caribou except by Federally qualified subsistence users unless the population estimate excess 900 caribou.

How the New Regulation would Read

Unit 17—Caribou

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Aug. 1 – Mar. 31

*Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of caribou except **by residents of Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clark's Point and Ekuk hunting under these regulations.** ~~by Federally qualified subsistence users unless the population estimate excess 900 caribou~~*

Justification

The reintroduction of caribou to the Nushagak Peninsula in 1988 aimed to restore a vital subsistence resource for local communities, many of which have historically relied on caribou for subsistence and cultural practices. The proposed regulation change, which prioritizes federally qualified subsistence users in the communities of Togiak, Twin Hills, Manokotak, Aleknagik, Dillingham, Clark's Point, and Ekuk, ensures that these communities can continue to engage in sustainable hunting practices. This change will also serve as a starting point for future deliberations among the seven communities to ensure that the management of the caribou population aligns with their subsistence needs and cultural traditions.

The proposed regulation focuses solely on subsistence uses of caribou, recognizing the importance of these animals to the food security and way of life of local residents. By limiting hunting to these users and specified communities, the regulation supports sustainable harvesting practices, protects cultural traditions, and promotes long-term food security. It also provides a framework for continued collaboration and discussion about how to best manage the resource for future generations