

DRAFT STAFF ANALYSIS WP26-01I – EASTERN INTERIOR

Introduction

Please see the WP26-01 master analysis for the Issues, Proponent Statement, Regulatory History, and Discussion and Effects sections.

Proposed Federal Regulations – Eastern Interior

Caribou

Unit 12—Caribou

Unit 12, that portion east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier and Aug. 10-Sep. 30 south of the Winter Trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border—1 bull by Federal registration permit only

Federal public lands are closed to the harvest of caribou except by federally qualified subsistence users hunting under these regulations.

The Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve superintendent after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, Tetlin NWR, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to set or open/close the season, announce the harvest quota, and the number of permits.

Note: The DAL for Fortymile caribou just specified coordination with United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and NPS. OSM clarified that coordination should be with Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and Yukon Flats NWR. OSM also added clarification that this delegated authority is for Fortymile caribou, which explains why the BLM Eastern Interior Field Office manager is required to coordinate with the other land management units specified. The Board delegated authority to one Federal in-season manager to streamline management of the Fortymile Caribou Herd across its entire range.

The DAL for Fortymile caribou just specified Unit 20F. However, given the current regulations and recent in-season management actions, the delegated authority should *not* apply to Unit 20F, north of the Yukon River. This DAL also delegated authority to modify or restrict methods and means. OSM is not aware of this authority ever being used and therefore, did not transfer it into the unit specific regulations.

Unit 20—Caribou

Unit 20E—up to 3 caribou, to be announced, by a joint State/Federal registration permit

Fall season between Aug. 1 and Sep. 30, to be announced.

The BLM Eastern Interior Field Office manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Yukon Flats NWR, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to modify or restrict harvest limits, including sex restrictions, and season dates for Fortymile caribou.

Winter season between Oct. 21 and Mar. 31, to be announced.

Unit 20F, north of the Yukon River—1 caribou

Aug. 10-Mar. 31

Unit 20F, east of the Dalton Highway and south of the Yukon River—up to 3 caribou, to be announced, by a joint State/Federal registration permit.

Fall season between Aug. 1 and Sep. 30, to be announced.

The BLM Eastern Interior Field Office manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Yukon Flats NWR, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to modify or restrict harvest limits, including sex restrictions, and season dates for Fortymile caribou.

Winter season between Oct. 21 and Mar. 31, to be announced.

Unit 25—Caribou

Unit 25C—up to 3 caribou, to be announced, by a joint Federal/State registration permit.

Fall season between Aug. 1 and Sep. 30, to be announced.

The BLM Eastern Interior Field Office manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, Yukon Flats NWR, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to modify or restrict harvest limits, including sex restrictions, and season dates for Fortymile caribou.

Winter season between Oct. 21 and Mar. 31, to be announced.

OSM PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION

Support Proposal WP26-01i.

Justification

See the WP26-01 master analysis.