

DRAFT STAFF ANALYSIS WP26-01D – BRISTOL BAY

Introduction

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

Proposed Federal Regulations – Bristol Bay

Caribou

Notes: OSM combined Unit 9A and Unit 9C, that portion within the Alagnak River drainage excluding Katmai National Preserve into one hunt area to simplify regulations as the regulations are exactly the same.

The DAL for Unit 9 caribou covers the entire range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and requires coordination with the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Planning Committee (Committee). As this Committee is focused on Nushagak Peninsula caribou, not Mulchatna caribou, OSM did not include it in entities required for coordination. OSM also added clarification that this delegated authority is for Mulchatna caribou, which explains why the Togiak NWR manager has been delegated authority to manage these caribou hunts. The Board delegated authority to one Federal in-season manager to streamline management of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd across its entire range.

Unit 9C, that portion draining into the Naknek River from the north, and Graveyard Creek and Coffee Creek had two DALs associated with it: one to the BLM Anchorage Field Office manager and one to the Togiak NWR manager as part of the Mulchatna caribou DAL. Delegating authority to two different Federal managers for the same hunt is not appropriate and very confusing. Therefore, OSM supports rescinding both DALs, but only transferred the authority for the Mulchatna Caribou Herd into the unit-specific regulations.

OSM added the authority to determine “the number of permits available by community” to the Unit 9C, that portion within Katmai National Preserve caribou hunt. This authority was not included in the existing DAL but is necessary for how the hunt is currently being managed.

The delegated authority for Unit 9C remainder and Unit 9E caribou are combined in one letter and requires coordination with the BLM and NPS but does not specify the specific land management units. OSM added the specific units for coordination into the unit-specific regulations below. However, there are no BLM lands in Unit 9E, so OSM removed requiring coordination with BLM for the Unit 9E caribou hunt.

Unit 9—Caribou

Units 9A, and Unit 9C, that portion within the Alagnak River drainage excluding Katmai National Preserve—up to 2 caribou by State registration permit

Season may be announced between Aug. 1-Mar. 15.

The Togiak NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, the BLM Anchorage Field Office, the Yukon Delta NWR, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, and Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to open/close seasons, and announce harvest limits, including sex restrictions for Mulchatna caribou.

Unit 9B—up to 2 caribou by State registration permit

Season may be announced between Aug. 1-Mar. 31.

The Togiak NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, the BLM Anchorage Field Office, the Yukon Delta NWR, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, and Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to open/close seasons, and announce harvest limits, including sex restrictions for Mulchatna caribou.

Unit 9C, that portion within Katmai National Preserve—1 caribou by Federal registration permit. Federal public lands are closed to the taking of caribou except by residents of Igiugig and Kokhanok hunting under these regulations

Season may be announced between Aug. 1-Sep. 30 or Nov. 1-Mar. 31.

The Katmai National Park and Preserve superintendent after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to announce the annual harvest quota, announce and open/close a season, determine the number of permits issued annually and the number of permits available by community, and set sex restrictions.

Unit 9C, that portion draining into the Naknek River from the north, and Graveyard Creek and Coffee Creek—up to 2 caribou by State registration permit

Season may be announced between Aug. 1-Mar. 15.

The Togiak NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, the BLM Anchorage Field Office, the Yukon Delta NWR, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, and Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to open/close seasons, and announce harvest limits, including sex restrictions for Mulchatna caribou.

Unit 9C, remainder—1 bull by Federal registration permit or State permit.

May be announced

Federal public lands are closed to the taking of caribou except by residents of Unit 9C and Egegik

The Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR Manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, BLM Anchorage Field Office, Katmai National Park and Preserve, and the Chair of affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to open/close the season, and set harvest quotas.

Unit 9E—1 bull by Federal registration permit or State permit.

May be announced

Federal public lands are closed to the taking of caribou except by residents of Unit 9C, Unit 9E, Nelson Lagoon, and Sand Point

The Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR Manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, Aniakchak National Preserve and Monument, and the Chairs of affected Councils is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to open/close the season, and set harvest quotas.

Notes: OSM combined Units 17A, all drainages west of Right Hand Point; 17A, remainder and 17C, remainder; and Units 17B and 17C, that portion of 17C east of the Wood River and Wood River Lakes into one hunt area to simplify regulations as the regulations are exactly the same.

The DAL for Unit 17 caribou covers the entire range of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd and requires coordination with the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Planning Committee (Committee). As this Committee is focused on Nushagak Peninsula caribou, not Mulchatna caribou, OSM did not include it in entities required for coordination. OSM also added clarification that this delegated authority is for Mulchatna caribou, which explains why the Togiak NWR 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 Mulchatna Caribou Herd across its entire range.

Unit 17—Caribou

Units 17A and 17C, that portion of 17A east of the Ungalikthluk River and South of Buchia Ridge, and within the lower Kulukak 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 Aug. 1-Mar. 31

Public lands are closed to the taking of caribou except by federally qualified users unless the Nushagak Peninsula caribou population estimate exceeds 900 caribou

The Togiak NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, BLM, the Nushagak Peninsula Caribou Planning committee, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to determine the harvest quota, set the harvest limit, close the season, set the harvest areas, and determine the number of permits issued and the number of permits available by community.

Units 17A, remainder; 17B; and 17C, remainder—up to 2 caribou by State registration permit.

Season may be announced between Aug. 1 and Mar. 31.

The Togiak NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, the BLM Anchorage Field Office, the Yukon Delta NWR, Katmai National Park and Preserve, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, and Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to open/close seasons, and announce harvest limits, including sex restrictions for Mulchatna caribou.

Moose

Unit 17—Moose

Unit 17A—1 bull by State registration permit; or

Aug. 25-Sep. 25.

1 antlerless moose by State registration permit; or

Aug. 25-Sep. 25.

Unit 17A—up to 2 moose; one antlered bull by State registration permit, one antlerless moose by State registration permit

Up to a 31-day season may be announced between Dec. 1 and the last day of Feb.

The Togiak NWR manager after coordination with ADF&G, OSM, and the Chair of the affected Council(s) is authorized within the regulatory parameters set by the Board, to open/close a winter season of up to 31 days and set the harvest limit for the winter season.

OSM PRELIMINARY CONCLUSION

Support Proposal WP26-01d.

Justification

See the WP26-01 master analysis.