



Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199



Unit 7 Caribou Registration Hunt Restricted to Bulls Only

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
43 CFR 51.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: 07-C-01-26

Issued at: Moose Pass, Alaska August 7 2026

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Monday, August 10, 2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, October 8, 2026 unless superseded by subsequent Federal special action

EXPLANATION: This Emergency Special Action closes the Unit 7 registration permit hunt to the harvest of cow caribou.

REGULATION: 36 CFR §242.26(n)(7) and 43 CFR §51.26(n)(7) are amended to read:

Unit 7 – Caribou

*Unit 7, north of the Sterling Highway and west of the Seward Highway—1 **bull** caribou by Federal registration permit only. The Seward District Ranger will close the Federal season when 5 caribou are harvested by Federal registration permit* *Aug. 10-Dec. 31.*

JUSTIFICATION: Based on aerial surveys conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), there has been a steep decline in the Kenai Mountains caribou herd (Figure 1). Accordingly, ADF&G restricted the harvest of caribou in the DC001 drawing hunt to bulls only.

The Kenai Mountains caribou herd has been on a steady decline since its last peak of 375 animals in 2001. This decline intensified between 2020 and 2022. The most recent minimum count of the Kenai Mountains herd was 62 animals. Factors driving the decline in the herd are likely related to natural population dynamics, winter conditions, and limited winter range.

The Federal Subsistence Board delegated authority to the Seward District Ranger to manage the Unit 7 caribou hunt. In order to address this conservation concern while maintaining the greatest sustainable opportunity for subsistence harvest, the Seward District Ranger has closed the hunt to the harvest of cows by means of Emergency Special Action.

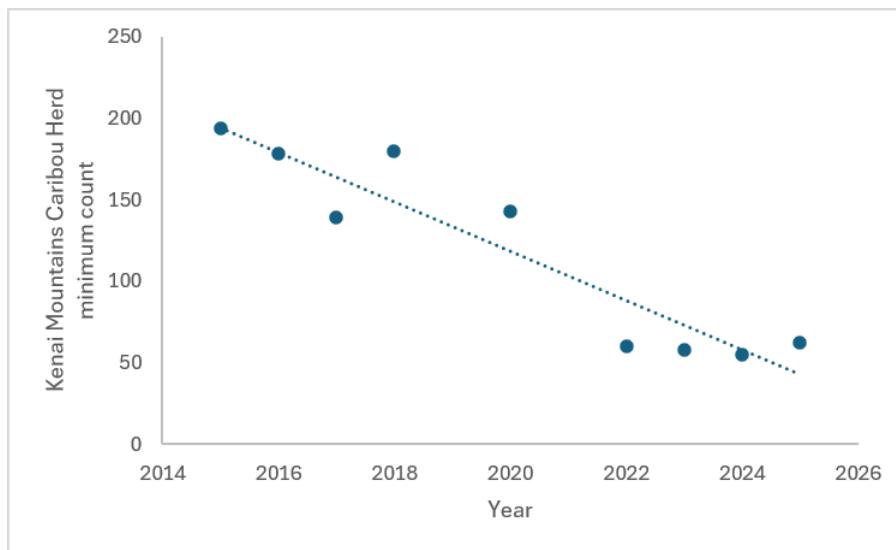


Figure 1. Kenai Mountains Caribou Herd minimum count data for 2015-2026

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:

/s/ Ruth D'Amico

Ruth D'Amico

District Ranger,

Seward Ranger District

August 7, 2026

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