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Federal Subsistence Board News Release

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Federal Subsistence Board Adopts New Regulations for the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk Caribou Herds

The Federal Subsistence Board (Board) recently adopted new regulations for Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, 26A and 26B at its April 12-14, 2016 meeting in Anchorage. These regulations cover the entire range of the Western Arctic and Teshekpuk Caribou Herds and are the first changes to Federal Subsistence regulations for these herds in more than 20 years. These regulations will be effective July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2018.

The Board felt that these changes were needed due to the precipitous decline of the caribou herds in northern and western Alaska and that these declines warranted strong measures to ensure the conservation of these populations. Since 2008, the Teshekpuk and Western Arctic caribou populations have declined approximately 50%. Low calf survival and recruitment combined with increasing adult mortality are contributing factors to the overall population decline. The Alaska Board of Game has also responded to this population concern by passing similar restrictions. Changes include reductions in harvest limits, shortening of bull and cow seasons, creation of new hunt areas, may be announced seasons, and prohibitions on the take of calves and cows with calves.

A fact sheet simplifying the changes to Units 21D, 22, 23, 24, 26A and 26B accompanies this news release.

Additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program may be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

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Unit 21D Federal Caribou Regulations 2016-2018

Unit 21D – Caribou

Unit 21D—north of the Yukon River and east of the Koyukuk River—caribou may be taken during a winter season to be announced

Winter season to be announced

Unit 21D remainder

*5 caribou per day as follows:
however calves may not be taken*

Bulls may be harvested

July 1 – Oct. 14

Feb. 1 – June 30

Cows may be harvested

Sept. 1 – Mar. 31

Changes from previous Federal regulations include the following:

1. A shortening of the bull and cow seasons in Unit 21D remainder.
2. A prohibition on the take of calves.

Unit 22 Federal Caribou Regulations 2016-2018

Unit 22—Caribou

<i>Unit 22B, that portion west of Golovnin Bay and west of a line along the west bank of the Fish and Niukluk Rivers to the mouth of the Libby River, and excluding all portions of the Niukluk River drainage upstream from and including the Libby River drainage</i>	<i>5 caribou per day: however calves may not be taken</i>	<i>Oct. 1 – Apr. 30 May 1 – Sept. 30, a season may be announced</i>
<i>Units 22A, that portion north of the Golsovia River drainage, 22B remainder, that portion of Unit 22D in the Kuzitrin River drainage (excluding the Pilgrim River drainage), and the Agiapuk River Drainages, including the tributaries, and Unit 22E, that portion east of and including the Tin Creek drainage .</i>	<i>5 caribou per day: however calves may not be taken</i>	<i>July 1 – June 30</i>
<i>Unit 22A remainder</i>	<i>5 caribou per day: however calves may not be taken</i>	<i>July 1 – June 30, a season may be announced</i>
<i>Unit 22D, that portion in the Pilgrim River Drainage</i>	<i>5 caribou per day: however calves may not be taken</i>	<i>Oct. 1 – Apr. 30 May 1 – Sept. 30, a season may be announced</i>
<i>Unit 22C, 22D remainder, 22E remainder</i>	<i>5 caribou per day: however calves may not be taken</i>	<i>July 1 – June 30, a season may be announced</i>

Changes from previous Federal regulations include the following:

1. There is now a Federal caribou season in all hunt areas in Unit 22.
2. Unit 22 split up into five hunt areas compared to three under previous regulations.
3. A prohibition on the harvest of calves.
4. A prohibition on the harvest of cows removed in Units 22A, 22B remainder, and 22E.

Unit 23 Federal Caribou Regulations 2016-2018

Unit 23 – Caribou

Unit 23 –that portion which includes all drainages north and west of and including the Singoalik River drainage *5 caribou per day as follows,however calves may not be taken:*

Bulls may be harvested *July 1 – Oct. 14*
Feb. 1 – June 30

Cows may be harvested, however cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 15–Oct. 14 *July 15 – Apr. 30*

Unit 23 remainder *5 caribou per day as follows: however calves may not be taken*

Bulls may be harvested *July 1 – Oct. 31*
Feb. 1 – June 30

Cows may be harvested; however cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 31–Oct. 14 *July 31 – Mar. 31*

Changes from previous Federal regulations include the following:

1. Unit 23 split up into two hunt areas.
2. A reduction in the harvest limit from 15 to 5 caribou per day.
3. A prohibition on the harvest of calves.
4. A prohibition on the harvest of cows with calves.
5. A shortening of the bull and cow season.

Unit 24 Federal Caribou Regulations 2016-2018

Unit 24—Caribou

Unit 24A—south of the south bank of the Kanuti River - 1 caribou *Aug. 10 – Mar. 31*

Unit 24B – that portion south of the south bank of the Kanuti River, upstream from and including that portion of the Kanuti–Kilolitna River drainage, bounded by the southeast bank of the of the Kodosin–Nolitna Creek, then downstream along the east bank of the Kanuti–Kilolitna River to its confluence with the Kanuti River – 1 caribou *Aug. 10 – Mar. 31*

Unit 24A remainder and 24B remainder *5 caribou per day as follows:
however calves may not be taken*

Bulls may be harvested *July 1 – Oct. 14
Feb. 1 – June 30*

Cows may be harvested *July 15 – Apr. 30*

Units 24C and 24D *5 caribou per day as follows:
however calves may not be taken*

Bulls may be harvested *July 1 – Oct. 14
Feb. 1 – June 30*

Cows may be harvested *Sept. 1 – Mar. 31*

Changes from previous regulations include the following:

1. A shortening of the bull and cow seasons.
2. A prohibition on the harvest of calves.
3. Caribou regulations for Unit 24 now split up into 4 hunt areas compared to 2 under previous regulations – 1) 24A remainder and 24B remainder – area mostly north of the north of the Kanuti R. Drainage; 2) 24A south of the Kanuti R. drainage; 3) 24B south of the Kanuti R. Drainage (Ray Mtns); 4) 24C and 24D.

Unit 26A Federal Caribou Regulations 2016-2018

Unit 26—Caribou

Unit 26A— that portion of the Colville River drainage upstream from the Anaktuvuk River, and drainages of the Chukchi Sea south and west of, and including the Utukok River drainage

Up to 5 caribou per day; however calves may not be taken

*Bulls may be harvested July 1 – Oct. 14
Dec. 6 – June 30*

Cows may be harvested; however cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 16 - Oct. 15

Unit 26A remainder

5 caribou per day; however calves may not be taken

*Bulls may be harvested July 1 – Oct. 15
Dec. 6 – June 30*

Up to 3 cows per day may be harvested; however cows accompanied by calves may not be taken July 16–Oct. 15

Changes from previous regulations include the following:

1. Unit 26A split up into two hunt areas in recognition of the seasonal use and migration patterns of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. The north half (Unit 26A remainder) is the primary area for the Teshekpuk Caribou Herd and the south half (Unit 26A, Colville River drainage) is the primary area for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd.
2. A reduction in the harvest limit from 10 to 5 caribou per day.
3. A shortening of the bull and cow seasons.
4. A prohibition on the harvest of calves.
5. A prohibition on the harvest of cows with calves.

Unit 26B Federal Caribou Regulations 2016-2018

*Unit 26B – that portion
south of 69°30' N. Lat. and
west of the Dalton Highway*

5 caribou per day as follows:

Bulls may be harvested

July 1 – Oct. 14

Dec. 10 – June. 30

Cows may be harvested

July 1 – Apr. 30

Unit 26B remainder –

5 caribou per day

Bulls may be harvested

July 1 – June 30

Cows may be harvested

July 1 – May 15

You may not transport more than 5 caribou per regulatory year from Unit 26 except to the community of Anaktuvuk Pass.

Changes from previous regulations include the following:

1. Unit 26B was split up into two hunt areas.
2. A reduction in the harvest limit from 10 to 5 caribou per day.
3. A shortening of the bull and cow seasons in the hunt area south of 69°30' and west of the Dalton Hwy.
4. The cow season allows for the take from the Central Arctic Caribou Herd (June to mid-October) and Teshekpuk Caribou Herd (mid-October to May).
5. No prohibition on the take of calves because most of the calf harvest is likely to come from the Central Arctic Caribou Herd during the summer from August to September.