

Key topics and discussion points for the next Harvest Management Plan

Previous Fortymile caribou harvest plans were developed during a period of herd growth. The last plan was written just prior to the herd's peak population size of ~80,000 caribou. With the herd in decline and a current estimated population size under 30,000 caribou, harvest management will face new challenges. Small harvest quotas will require a more conservative harvest management strategy. Keep this in mind when considering changes to the current plan.

Please discuss the following topics with your group and come to the meeting prepared to provide input on the group's preferences for the following portions of the harvest plan.

Goals and Objectives for the new plan

Previous Fortymile caribou harvest plans were developed during a period of herd growth. The last plan was written just prior to the herd's peak population size of ~80,000 caribou. With the herd in decline and a current estimated population size under 30,000 caribou, harvest management will face new challenges. Small harvest quotas will require a more conservative harvest management strategy. Keep this in mind when considering changes to the current plan.

Non-resident Harvest

The amount necessary for subsistence for the Fortymile Herd is 350–400 caribou. If annual harvest falls within or below 350–400, the Alaska subsistence law requires non-resident harvest to be suspended. However, when annual harvest is above this amount, non-resident harvest can be allowed.

Please come to the meeting ready to discuss when, how and where non-resident harvest should be allowed when quotas are adequate to allow it.

For example? when the annual FCH harvest quota is;

6.- 066.- Suspend non_resident harvest

066_7666.- Allow non_resident harvest in Zone 8 with a registration permits and issue up to X drawing permits for the road accessible zones;

~7666.- Allow non_resident harvest in all zones with a registration permit;

Alaska Harvest Quota Allocation

Please come to the meetings with any changes you feel may work better during the plan period (~next 6-years) with anticipated small quotas.

See page 8–9 in the 2019–2023 HMP – please review

Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

Please come to the meetings with any changes you feel may work better during the plan period (~next 6-years) with anticipated small quotas.

See pages 9–10 in the 2019–2023 HMP – please review

For example:

Fall Hunt Structure (75% of annual quota)

August 10–31, Limited Draw Hunt for 10% of the fall quota

- Would provide limited opportunity regardless of numbers of caribou close to roads.
- No EOs – hunt dates would be predictable
- Reduced hunter crowding – potential higher quality hunt conditions
- Not considered Alaska subsistence opportunity

September 1–30, Registration Hunt for 90% of the fall quota

- Would provide unlimited hunter opportunity – including state subsistence opportunity
- EOs possible – less predictable season opening and season length
- Greater hunter numbers likely

Zone Quota Allocation

- Zones 1, 3 and 4 (road accessible_)
 - 75% of fall quota
- Zone 2
 - 25% of fall quota

Winter Hunt Structure

October 27 – March 31, Registration Hunt Opening

- Would provide unlimited hunter opportunity – including state subsistence opportunity
- EOs possible – less predictable season opening and season length
- Greater hunter numbers likely

December 1 – March 31, To Be Announced Targeted Hunt (AC999)

- October 1 – 31 application period
- Limited number of permits could be issued for zones that are closed because too many caribou are present to open the general registration hunt, and some zone quota remains
- Not considered Alaska subsistence opportunity

Proxy Hunting

The Board of Game adopted a proposal in March 2024 to reinstate proxy hunting for FCH caribou. Do you want to see this continue or would you prefer to eliminate proxy hunting again.

Subsistence Hunting Opportunity

Review

Both state and federal hunt managers have legal mandates to provide for hunter opportunity.

- State subsistence hunter – includes all Alaska residents
- Federal subsistence hunter – Alaska residents from rural communities with a Customary and Traditional use finding only

See page 9 in the 2019–2023 HMP – please review