

**Proposal #33**

This proposal was drafted based on a solid understanding of the regulatory and biological history of this herd. We aim to offer a functional solution for the Nelchina Caribou Herd providing for subsistence and population management needs (during shortage and abundance), returning to 1-2 caribou/person bag limits and traditional proxy opportunities, as well as distributing hunters through time to address concerns of over-crowding.

After discussion with many Nelchina caribou hunters, both local Copper Basin residents and residents from more urban areas, as well as ADF&G Staff, we ask the Board to make these amendments to Proposal #33:

**#1 Create an additional, separate Registration Hunt (1-2 caribou/person). Permit numbers would be 10% of the TOTAL available registration permits. These permits would be good for all of the open caribou seasons mentioned in Proposal #33. These permits would be available in GMU 13 Communities ONLY (not online); beginning July 15 and available throughout the season as availability allows.**

**#2 Allow ADF&G to set the number of permits available for each hunt period (eliminate up to language); and manage the hunt to take approximately 80-90% of the harvest in the fall and a smaller portion in the winter, as a significant number of caribou generally winter outside GMU 13.**

**#3 When the Nelchina Caribou population estimate is above the upper end of the Population Objective (40,000 animals) the bag limit will be 2 caribou per person, to effectively reach harvest objectives and reduce over-crowding.**

Creating an additional registration permit that includes the entire season, available only in GMU 13 will help meet the needs of those hunters that require the flexibility of a long season. Much of the resistance to Prop 33 from local residents was to the short season lengths. Another concern with locals was that variable internet access would reduce their ability to compete in an online system. Although I don't believe that fast internet is necessary when there are thousands of permits available, this would allow people to pick the permits up in the area.

ADF&G has voiced concern that with only "up to 2000" per period, they would not be able to reach the desired harvest level. We included this number as an example only. We are completely comfortable with whatever number ADF&G needs to manage harvest.

We understand that ADF&G would like to manage for most, if not all, harvest in the fall because often the caribou leave before the winter hunt. We are comfortable with the majority of the harvest taking place in the fall, but recognize many people value some winter opportunity. We suggest managing for a small portion of the harvest in the winter, that if not realized, would be inconsequential biologically.

The two caribou bag limit is intended to allow ADF&G to reach their harvest objectives without additional, excessive crowding and pressure on the land.