THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Headquarters

1255 West 8th Street
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526
Main: 907.465.4190
Fax: 907.465.6142

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An Agenda Change Request (ACR 3) has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5 AAC 85.025(19). Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou. The department is asking the board to shorten the caribou hunting season in a portion of Game Management Unit (GMU) 24A and 25D due to a recent change in land access. Caribou hunting season would be changed from August 10 – March 31 to August 10 – October 31 in the portion of GMU 24A south of an east-west line extending from the point at the south bank of the South Fork Koyukuk River at the Dalton Highway crossing near N67º 01.104', W150º 17.352', and that portion of GMU 25D drained by the west fork of the Dall River west of 150º W. Long.

With respect to the board's ACR acceptance criteria (5 AAC 92.005):

A. The department is unaware of any error in regulation.
B. The combined effects of access and regulation changes were unforeseen when the regulation was adopted in 2000. At that time, the department was unaware that access for winter travel would change in 2026. .
C. There is a biological concern because there is a potential for overharvest of the Hodzana Hills caribou herd.
D. The board has not made a customary and traditional use finding for the Hodzana Hills caribou herd. Therefore, the department is unable to determine if there are unforeseen or unexpected events that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses as defined in AS 16.05.258(f). because.
E. A change in land access has created an unexpected resource situation that could potentially cause overharvest of the resource.

The requested change will shorten the caribou hunting season in a portion of GMU 24A and 25D.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting for Region III is during winter/spring of 2026/2027. If the board accepts this ACR, the department recommends the proposal come before the board at its March meeting in Fairbanks to allow for more public input.

Sincerely,

Ryan Scott

Ryan Scott
Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation