

**PROPOSAL 65**

**5 AAC 85.025. Hunting seasons and bag limits for caribou.**

Establish a new resident, general season for caribou in Unit 20F as follows:

For Residents, the bag limit for Unit 20F caribou, North of the Yukon River (but excluding the Haul Road special use corridor and use areas) is two animals, only one of which may be taken before November 1st.

Residents:	Two caribou	One Caribou	August 10 – March 31
	Total	One Caribou	November 1 – March 31

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Ray Mountain Caribou herd rarely comes into the more accessible hills behind Tanana in winter. In summer and fall smaller bands seem to range there more. In the 1970's and early 80's winter ranging there seemed more common. Last winter for the first time since the 1980's they did this for half the winter and it was a herd of approximately 100 animals. Three caribou were taken. Two of the people were not able to get a moose during the fall season and it would be nice to have a bag limit of two animals if this were to happen again.

We have contacted area managers and they mentioned a carefully thought out increase could be considered. We would be happy to limit this increase to north of the Yukon River in Unit 20F (not including the Haul Road special use corridor and use areas) and even to the dates of after November 1 to the seasons end. These are all things which would limit harvest to times when hunting in the area would likely be minimal and not likely to blossom into a big deal over time.

Currently area managers of this herd (Division of Wildlife Conservation Galena Area Office) consider it to be closely monitored in an effort to ensure they are not over-exploited. Below are selected (by the Tanana Rampart Manley AC) numbers from 63 department surveys taken from 1978 to 2018:

- Average number counted for all surveys - 716
- Average number for last 15 years - 686
- Average number for last 2 years – 732

**PROPOSED BY:** Tanana Rampart Manley Fish & Game Advisory Committee (EG-F19-104)

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