

2020 Special Action Requests affecting the Southcentral Region

WSA20-01 (Unit 13 caribou)

Request:

Temporary Special Action Request, WSA20-01, submitted by William Amberg of Copper Center, requested a continuous caribou season in Unit 13 from Aug. 1–Mar. 31 and that the caribou harvest limit in Unit 13 remainder be changed to two caribou for the 2020/21 and 2021/22 seasons.

Board Action and Justification

The Board approved WSA20-01 with modification to approve the change in harvest limit, but not the change in season. The Board supported changing the harvest limit to two caribou to provide additional subsistence opportunity and because no conservation concerns exist. The Board did not support an October season due to concern over harvesting bulls during the rut when they may be unpalatable. The Board's action was also consistent with the recommendations of both the Southcentral and Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.

WSA20-02 (AITRC-administered community harvest system)

Request

Temporary Special Action request WSA20-02, submitted by the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (AITRC), requested the development of an AITRC-administered community harvest system for moose and caribou in Units 11, 12, and 13 for the eight Ahtna traditional communities for the 2020/21 regulatory year.

Board Action and Justification

The Board approved WSA20-02 with modification, to 1) name individual communities authorized to participate in the community harvest system on Federal public lands in Units 11, 12, and 13, specifically the eight Ahtna traditional communities of Cantwell, Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Gakona, Gulkana, Mentasta Lake, and Tazlina; 2) define the geographic boundaries of eligible communities as the most recent Census Designated Places established by the United States Census Bureau; 3) extend this action through the end of the wildlife regulatory cycle, June 30, 2022; 4) specify that harvest reporting will take the form of reports collected from hunters by AITRC and submitted directly to the land managers and the Office of Subsistence Management, rather than through Federal registration permits, joint State/Federal registration permits, or State harvest tickets; and 5) set the harvest quota for the species and units authorized in the community harvest system as the sum of individual harvest limits for those opting to participate in the system. The Board supported the community hunt to allow AITRC to engage in traditional hunting practices with its community members and to manage hunting opportunities within its traditional territory.

WSA20-03 (Unit 13 moose and caribou)

Request

Temporary Special Action Request WSA20-03, submitted by Kirk Wilson of Glennallen, requested that the Federal Subsistence Board close Federal public lands in Unit 13 to the hunting of moose and caribou by non-Federally qualified users for the 2020/2021 season.

Board action and justification

The Board approved WSA20-03 with modification to only close Federal public lands in Units 13A and 13B to moose and caribou hunting by non-Federally qualified users for the 2020-2022 regulatory cycle. The Board supported the closure due to its necessity for reasons of public safety and continuation of subsistence uses. The Board limited the closure to Units 13A and 13B because this is the area where most overcrowding, disruption of hunts, and serious safety concerns have occurred. The Board extended the request to the 2021-2022 regulatory year as a regulatory proposal would not become effective until July 1, 2022, and to reduce the administrative burden associated with processing additional requests.

WSA20-07 (regulatory clarification for AITRC community hunt – Temporary SAR)

Request

Temporary Special Action request WSA20-07, submitted by the Office of Subsistence Management (OSM), requests an exception to 50 CFR 100.26(e)(2) (see below) for the Ahtna Inter-Tribal Resource Commission (AITRC)-administered community harvest system for moose and caribou in Units 11, 12, and 13 for the 2020-2022 regulatory cycle.

§ _____.26(e)(2)

An animal taken under Federal or State regulations by any member of a community with an established community harvest limit for that species counts toward the community harvest limit for that species. Except for wildlife taken pursuant to § _____.10(d)(5)(iii) or as otherwise provided for by this part, an animal taken as part of a community harvest limit counts toward every community member's harvest limit for that species taken under Federal or State of Alaska regulations.

Board action and justification

Pending as of August 14, 2020.

WSA20-09 (regulatory clarification for AITRC community hunt – Emergency SAR)

Request

Emergency Special Action request WSA20-09, submitted by OSM, requests an exception to 50 CFR 100.26(e)(2) for the AITRC-administered community harvest systems for moose and caribou in Units 11, 12, and 13 not to exceed 60 days.

Board action and justification

Pending as of August 14, 2020.