

WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENTS

Support Proposal WP14-49: We support Proposal 14-49 to "modify the season dates for the Unit 12 caribou hunt that takes place east of the Nabesna Road and Glacier and south of the Winter Trail", with a fall season from August 10th to September 20th and adding a winter season from February 1 to March 31st. Changing the Unit 12 Caribou season dates in this area will provide for subsistence needs. Federally qualified subsistence users will be able to access hunting areas to harvest a caribou during the winter months. Snow machines could be used to hunt with during the winter months to harvest a Unit 12 caribou in this remote, inaccessible area.

Ahtna Inc. Customary and Traditional Use Committee

Neutral Proposal WP14-49: Requests that if the proposal submitted by Gillam Joe recommending an additional winter hunt period is adopted, that the language similar to WP14-45 be added to include all qualified residents of the hunt area in any future hunts.

Jessica Braga, Ptarmigan Lake

Oppose Statewide Proposal WP14-49: There should not be a Chisana caribou herd harvest for the following concerns:

- With the limited biological data (three years old) the current caribou hunt in Unit 12 should not take place. The lack of recent bull-cow or cow-calf ratios does not support a harvest let alone a proposed winter hunt.
- The past history of poor calf populations, adverse weather conditions, limited winter habitat and calf predation do not support this hunt with limited biological data.
- The continued harvest of Chisana caribou would reduce the current small population that basically stays in a small habitat area.
- There has not been any caribou hunting since 1994 due to declining population. To my knowledge the Yukon Territory Canada First Nation members have stopped the harvest of the Chisana caribou herd due to the small population.
- Harvest information indicates that most of the past harvest was taken by non-residents and only nine percent by subsistence users.

- A proposed winter hunt is questionable with only three year old data on a small herd.
- A hunt will potentially displace the caribou from their limited natural winter habitat and cause more stress.
- If a hunt takes place current survey information is critical to the herd dynamics and future growth.
- If the proposed hunt takes place Ahtna Native members should be given priority for customary and traditional use of the caribou resource similar to First Nation People in the Yukon Territory.

Jim Hannah, retired Chitina District Ranger/Pilot