



Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOREST SERVICE

UNIT 7 CARIBOU REGISTRATION HUNT RESTRICTED TO HARVEST OF BULLS ONLY

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION: FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

Under authority of: 36 CFR §242.10 and .19
43 CFR §51.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No: SRD-2025-WSA-01
Issued at: Moose Pass Alaska, August 15, 2025

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Saturday, August 16, 2025

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, October 14, 2025, unless superseded by subsequent Federal special action

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Special Action closes the Unit 7 registration permit hunt to the harvest of cow caribou.

REGULATION: 36 CFR §242.26(n)(7) and 43 CFR §51.26(n)(7) are amended to read:

Unit 7 – Caribou

*Unit 7, north of the Sterling Highway and west of the Seward Highway—1 **bull** caribou by Federal registration permit only. The Seward District Ranger will close the Federal season when 5 caribou are harvested by Federal registration permit*

Aug. 10-Oct. 14.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to /s/Ruth D'Amico
District Ranger,
Seward Ranger District
August 15, 2025

JUSTIFICATION:

Based on aerial surveys conducted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), there has been a steep decline in the Kenai Mountains caribou herd (Figure 1). Accordingly, ADF&G restricted the harvest of caribou in the DC001 drawing hunt to bulls only.

The Kenai Mountains caribou herd has been on a steady decline since its last peak of 375 animals in 2001. This decline intensified between 2020 and 2022. The most recent minimum count of the Kenai Mountains herd was 55 animals. Factors driving the decline in the herd are likely related to natural population dynamics, winter conditions, and limited winter range.

The Federal Subsistence Board delegated authority to the Seward District Ranger to manage the Unit 7 caribou hunt for the 2025 season. To address this conservation concern while maintaining the greatest sustainable opportunity for subsistence harvest, the Federal hunt is closed to the harvest of cows. This action is effective for 60 days. After a public hearing is held, this action may be extended to December 31, 2025.

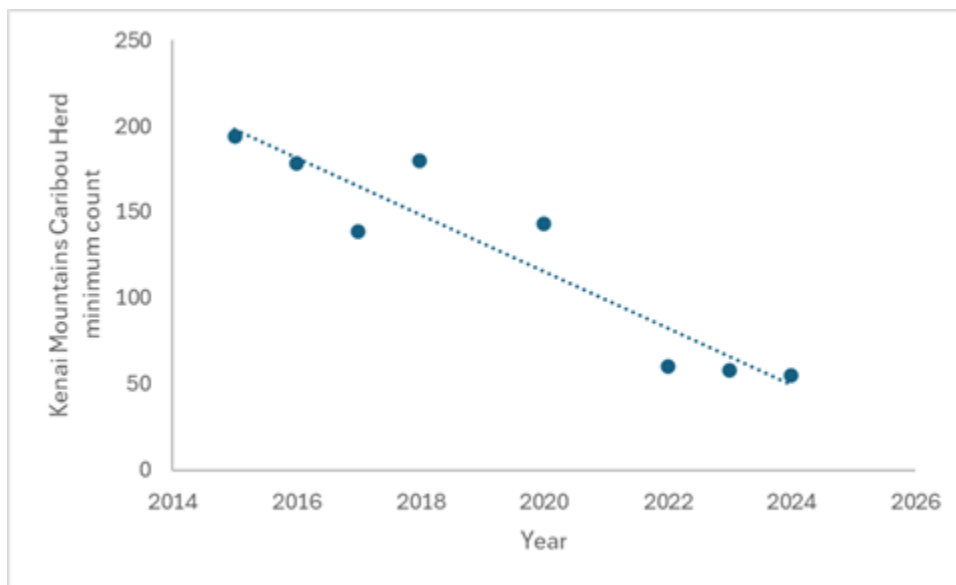


Figure 1. Kenai Mountains Caribou Herd minimum count data for 2015-2025

DISTRIBUTION:

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Anthony Christianson, Chair, Federal Subsistence Board; Greg Encelewski, Chair, Southcentral Alaska RAC; Jenn Youngblood, Greg Risdahl, Andy Morse, Becky Jones, Sam Carroll, Steven Namitz, USDA Forest Service; Steve Miller, Todd Eskelin, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Crystal Leonetti, Nissa Pilcher; Lisa Grediagin, Justin Koller, Leigh

Honig and Robbin La Vine, Office of Subsistence Management; Cynthia Wardlow, Jeff Selinger, Chris Bottom, ADF&G Wildlife Conservation Division, Region II; and Ben Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, ADF&G.