

RC 120

**DRAFT FOR EXTERNAL REVIEW*****Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation and
Division of Subsistence******Community Subsistence Harvest Caribou Permit Program –
Copper Basin******Hunt Administration***

As required by a July 2010 Alaska Superior Court decision (3KN-09-178CI), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will administer and manage community subsistence harvest (CSH) programs. Hunt administration will be in accordance with the department's statutory and regulatory authority, including managing this common use resource for sustained yield according to laws regarding the subsistence preference passed by the Alaska State Legislature. Participation in the Copper Basin CSH program does not affect federal subsistence hunting opportunity.

Copper Basin Caribou CSH Permit Application Process

According to regulations found at 5 AAC 92.072 *Community Subsistence Harvest Hunt Area* and at 5 AAC 92.052 *Discretionary Permit Hunt Conditions and Procedures*, the ADF&G commissioner, or the commissioner's designee, may issue community-based subsistence harvest permits and harvest reports for big game species where the Alaska Board of Game has established a community harvest hunt area. The CSH permit program allows a community or group of 25 or more to select, from their group members, individual harvesters who may possess particular expertise in hunting to harvest wildlife resources on behalf of the community or group.

The hunt conditions in this Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit program are made only for the purposes of notifying the group/pool of users of how to use the caribou in a manner consistent with the eight criteria in the customary and traditional use determination that the board approved in its 2006 finding *Game Management Unit 13 Caribou and Moose Subsistence Uses* (2006-170-BOG), as well as to

ensure an orderly administration of the CSH permit program and hunt. ADF&G does not use such determinations for resource allocation or hunt eligibility.

A community or group may possess only one (1) Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit at any given time and group members may subscribe to only one (1) Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit per regulatory year. The Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit expires at the end of the regulatory year in which it was issued. Renewal of a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit is the responsibility of the community or group.

Deadline for Application

It is the department's intent that applications for a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit will be available from ADF&G by March 15 of the calendar year of the hunt. Applications must be returned to ADF&G and postmarked or faxed no later than 5:00 PM on May 1 of the calendar year of the hunt. If May 1 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, then the application is due no later than 5:00 PM on the preceding Friday.

Incomplete applications will be void. Send or fax completed applications to the ADF&G Glennallen office (see "For More Information," below).

There is no limit to the number of communities or groups that may apply for a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit and there is no limit to the number of hunters who may participate in a community or group, except that there must be 25 or more members.

The Community or Group Coordinator

In addition to permit hunt conditions and procedures found in 5 AAC 92.050, the community or group applying for a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit must designate a coordinator as part of the application process. The coordinator certifies that the information presented in a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit application is true and correct to the best of the coordinator's ability; monitors and reports on compliance with the conditions of a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit; and serves as the primary point of contact.

ADF&G will issue one (1) Copper Basin Community Caribou Harvest Permit to each coordinator.

Hunter registration

In the application materials, each Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit coordinator must provide to the ADF&G Glennallen office a list of group members who will be hunting under the terms and conditions of a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit hunt, the names of their household members, as well as other

required information. Each coordinator may contact the ADF&G Glennallen office at any time during the season to add additional hunters and household members to the list.

According to 5 AAC 92.990 (23) *Definitions*, a “household” means that group of people domiciled in the same residence.

Copper Basin CSH Permit Caribou Harvest Tickets and Report Cards

ADF&G will issue one (1) Copper Basin CSH permit caribou harvest ticket/report card to each person on the community or group’s hunters list. In addition to licensing and hunter education requirements, each hunter must have (1) Copper Basin CSH permit caribou harvest ticket in the hunter’s possession for each caribou that hunter takes or attempts to take under the terms of a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit. By subscribing to a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit hunt, a hunter certifies that he or she will comply with all applicable conditions.

Hunters and their household members who subscribe to a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit will not be eligible to receive a Copper Basin CSH permit caribou harvest ticket/report card if they have applied for:

1. Any other state caribou harvest ticket, drawing, or registration permit hunt statewide; or
2. Any state moose permit hunt outside of the Copper Basin CSH permit hunt area; or
3. If they have failed to comply with ADF&G reporting requirements in the previous year.

A person subscribing to a Copper Basin CSH permit hunt can hunt for caribou only in GMU 13 under the terms of a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit hunt, and for moose only in the Copper Basin CSH permit hunt area (see “*Hunt Area*,” below).

Hunters must comply with all state hunting regulations and statutes, including, but not limited to, recording their Copper Basin CSH permit caribou harvest ticket numbers on the back of the hunting license, carrying the Copper Basin CSH permit caribou harvest tickets in the field, and validating the Copper Basin CSH permit caribou harvest tickets immediately upon killing a caribou. The Copper Basin CSH permit caribou harvest tickets must be in the hunter’s possession until the caribou has been delivered to the location of processing for human consumption.

Copper Basin CSH permit caribou harvest tickets come with harvest reports attached to them. The report portion need not be carried in the field, but must be mailed or delivered to ADF&G within 5 days of taking the bag limit or within 30 days of the close of the final season, even if the hunter did not hunt or did not kill a caribou.

Copper Basin CSH Permit Hunt Area, and Area Open to Caribou Hunting

Although the Copper Basin CSH permit hunt area includes all of GMUs 11 and 13 and a portion of GMU 12 (see below), due to conservation concerns for adjacent caribou herds, only GMU 13 is open to caribou hunting under the terms of a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit. Furthermore, a person subscribing to a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit hunt can hunt for moose only in the Copper Basin CSH permit hunt area.

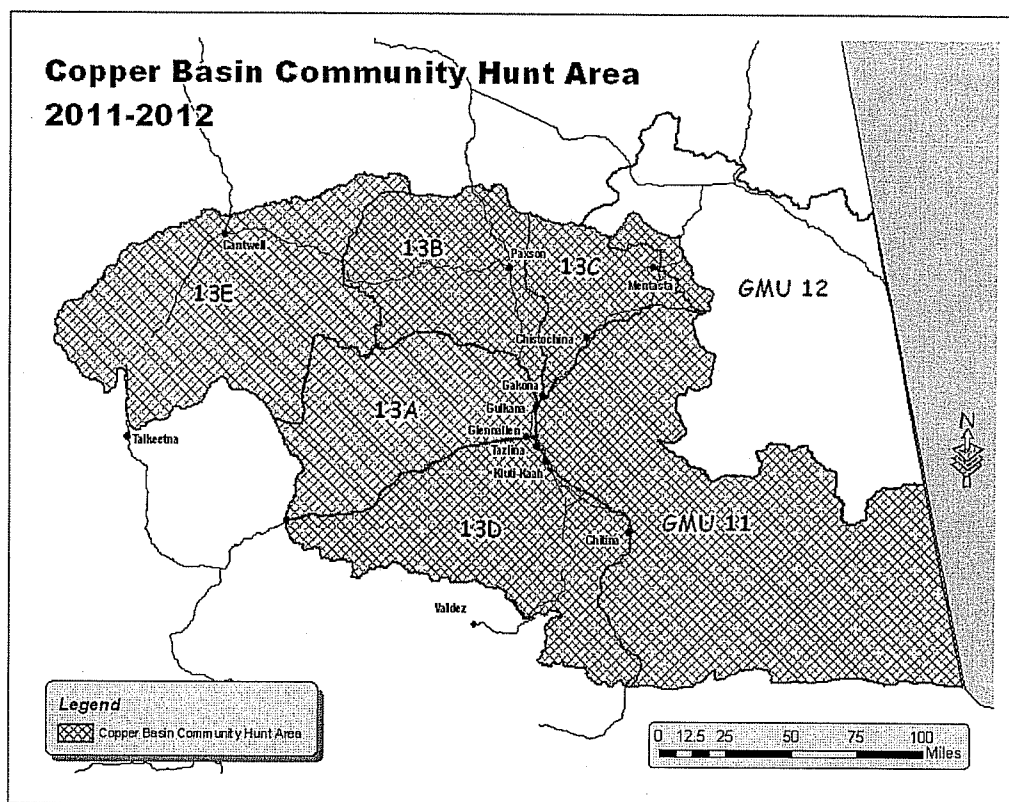
In 2006-170-BOG, the board has found that “subsistence uses involve an intimate and exclusive relationship between the user and a very particular set of places generally in close proximity to the hunter’s residence.” The board findings furthermore say that the pattern of use by community residents “differs markedly from the use patterns found in Alaska’s urban areas.”

The Copper Basin CSH permit hunt area is described in 5 AAC 92.074 (d):

The Gulkana, Cantwell, Chistochina, Gakona, Mentasta, Tazlina, Chitina, and Kluti Kaah [Copper Basin] Community Harvest Area includes all of:

1. That area draining into the headwaters of the Copper River south of Suslota Creek and the area drained by all tributaries into the east bank of the Copper River between the confluence of Suslota Creek with the Slana River and Miles Glacier; and
2. That portion including all drainages into the west bank of the Little Tok River, from its headwaters in Bear Valley at the intersection of the unit boundaries of GMUs 12 and 13 to its junction with the Tok River, and all drainages into the south bank of the Tok River from its junction with the Little Tok River to the Tok Glacier, and that area westerly of the east bank of the Copper River and drained by all tributaries into the west bank of the Copper River from Miles Glacier, including the Slana River drainages north of Suslota Creek; and
3. The drainages into the Delta River upstream from Falls Creek and Black Rapids Glacier; and
4. The drainages into the Nenana River upstream from the southeast corner of Denali National Park at Windy; and
5. The drainages into the Susitna River upstream from its junction with the Chulitna River; and
6. The drainages into the east bank of the Chulitna River upstream to its confluence with Tokositna River; and
7. The drainages of the Chulitna River (south of Denali National Park) upstream from its confluence with the Tokositna River; and
8. The drainages into the north bank of the Tokositna River upstream to the base of the Tokositna Glacier; and
9. The drainages into the Tokositna Glacier; and

10. The drainages into the east bank of the Susitna River between its confluences with the Talkeetna and Chulitna rivers; and
11. The drainages into the north and east bank of the Talkeetna River, including the Talkeetna River, to its confluence with Clear Creek, the eastside drainages of a line going up the south bank of Clear Creek to the first unnamed creek on the south, then up that unnamed creek to lake 4408, along the northeast shore of lake 4408, then southeast in a straight line to the northernmost fork of the Chickaloon River; and
12. The drainages into the east bank of the Chickaloon River below the line from lake 4408; and
13. The drainages of the Matanuska River above its confluence with the Chickaloon River.



Open Seasons

In 2006-170-BOG, the board found that the subsistence pattern is characterized by traditional fall and winter hunting seasons. Unless modified under ADF&G emergency order authority, there are two (2) open seasons for a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit hunt. Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit hunt participants may hunt for Nelchina caribou only during these open seasons:

1. August 10 through September 20; and

2. October 21 through March 31.

The board has established that up to 300 caribou can be taken under the Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit program. The Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit hunt may be closed by emergency order to ensure that no more than 300 caribou are taken.

Meaningful communal sharing may occur at any time during the regulatory year; however, see "Reporting," below.

Bag and Retention Limit

Unless modified under ADF&G emergency order authority, the bag limit is one (1) caribou per harvest ticket/report. No more than one (1) caribou may be retained per household.

Designated Hunters

The CSH permit program allows a community or group of 25 or more to designate, from within the group members as named in the application, individual harvesters who may possess particular expertise in hunting to harvest wildlife resources on behalf of the members of the community or group.

The beneficiary is responsible for all harvest and permit reporting as required on a Copper Basin CSH permit caribou harvest ticket/report form.

Terms and Conditions for Customary and Traditional Uses of Nelchina Caribou

In 2006-170-BOG, the board found that the subsistence pattern is characterized by thorough use of most of the harvested animal. Therefore, the permittee must salvage, for human consumption or use, from caribou taken under a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit hunt:

1. All edible meat from the frontquarters, hindquarters, ribs, neck, and backbone, as well as the heart, liver, kidneys, and fat; and
2. Meat of the frontquarters, hindquarters, and ribs must remain naturally attached to the bones until delivered to the place where it is processed for human consumption.

Terms and Conditions for Observation of the Customary and Traditional Use Pattern

The edible products of caribou taken under the terms of a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit hunt must be used for human consumption and may not be sold or offered for sale. In order to comply with

5 AAC 92.072 (c) (1) (F), the department must ensure that the applicable customary and traditional use patterns described in 2006-170-BOG are observed by subscribers, including meat sharing. Subscribers will be required to certify that they have read, understood, and will observe the following eight criteria as specified in 2006-170-BOG:

1. A long-term, consistent pattern of noncommercial taking, use, and reliance on not only Nelchina caribou and moose. The pattern of use should demonstrate that it was established over many generations and that it is focused on the total aggregate of fish, wildlife, and plant resources in the Copper Basin CSH area.
2. A pattern of taking or use of wild resources from the Copper Basin CSH area that follows a seasonal use pattern of year-round harvest effort in the area.
3. A pattern of taking or use of wild resources in the Copper Basin CSH area that includes methods and means of harvest characterized by efficiency and economy of effort and cost, especially taking advantage of the maximum opportunity to harvest, as efficiently as possible, as many animals and the widest variety of usable species in the Copper Basin CSH area.
4. A pattern of taking or use of wild resources that primarily occurs in the Copper Basin CSH area primarily due to close, long-term, multigenerational ties to the area and a familiarity with the terrain and associated history of the Copper Basin CSH area.
5. A means of processing and preserving wild resources from the Copper Basin CSH area that has traditionally been used by past generations and that salvages and uses the parts required to be removed from the field under the terms of a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit.
6. A pattern of taking or use of wild resources from the Copper Basin CSH area that includes the handing down of knowledge of hunting skills, values, and lore about the Copper Basin CSH area from generation to generation. The board considered it critical to the perpetuation of the customary and traditional use pattern to provide opportunities for the young and old to participate in subsistence activities; the board also found it extremely important to stress the need to pass on skills and knowledge associated with use of all parts of the harvested animal.
7. A pattern of taking or use of wild resources from the Copper Basin CSH area in which the harvest is shared, including customary trade, barter, and gift-giving.

In order to observe the pattern, the edible products of caribou taken under the terms of a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit hunt should be primarily shared, in a meaningful way, with community or group members as named on the Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit

application. Hunters should also demonstrate a pattern of meaningful communal sharing that provides first for the needs of the community or group elders and disabled, as identified by the community or group. In addition, hunters who have harvested their first caribou under the terms of a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit hunt should give all edible portions to other members of the community or group.

8. A pattern that includes taking, use, and reliance for subsistence purposes not only on Nelchina caribou and moose, but also on a wide variety of wild resources (other big game, small game, furbearers, fish, berries, and other wild plants) in the Copper Basin area.

Reporting

Successful hunters must validate Copper Basin CSH permit caribou harvest tickets prior to leaving the kill site; all hunters must comply with reporting requirements. Copper Basin CSH permit caribou harvest tickets come with harvest report cards attached to them. The report portion need not be carried in the field, but hunters must mail or deliver Copper Basin CSH permit caribou harvest reports to ADF&G within 5 days of taking the bag limit or within 30 days of the close of the final season, even if the hunter did not hunt or did not kill a caribou.

Failure to report through the harvest ticket/report vehicle may jeopardize sustained yield management of the Nelchina caribou herd; therefore, failure to report according to this schedule may result in citation and/or placement of individual hunters and/or harvest ticket/report holders on the state "failure to report" (FTR) list.

All caribou taken by Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit hunters within the CSH permit area will count against any established harvest quota for the population and area for which a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit hunt has been authorized, regardless of whether taken under federal or state regulations.

In order for the department to ensure that permittees have complied with all regulations addressing the terms and conditions of their Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit, as well as the eight criteria referenced in 2006-170-BOG, the community or group coordinator must submit an annual written report, which summarizes the group's member households' required reporting information. The report must be postmarked by April 15, or before a subsequent Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit application can be accepted.

The written report must include, at a minimum:

1. A list of the names and harvest ticket numbers for those individuals whose bag limits were filled under the terms of a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit; and

2. A list of the names and harvest ticket numbers of the beneficiaries whose bag limits were filled by a designated hunter under the terms of a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit; and
3. The number of caribou taken in federal subsistence hunts by those hunters also subscribing to a Copper Basin Caribou CSH permit hunt; and
4. A specific description of how the community or group observed each of the eight criteria as described by 2006-170-BOG. The department will provide a subsistence survey reporting form to assist with this section of the report; however, a summary narrative is also required that includes a description of at least one meaningful community sharing event.

Some information in these reports may be subject to state confidentiality laws.

For More Information

Alaska Department of Fish and Game on-line at
<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=home.main>

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333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99518
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Application for the Copper Basin Community Harvest Permit Program

Note to reviewers: application still under development. Information requested would include, but not be limited to, date of application, name of community or group, name of community or group coordinator, contact information for community or group coordinator, name and contact information of secondary community or group coordinator, information about hunters and household members (including, but not limited to name, hunting license numbers, dates of birth, Alaska driver's license numbers, mailing and physical addresses, etc.)

The application will include language from 5 AAC 92.050 that states the applicant or the applicant's agent shall complete the application form; a permit application that is incomplete, or that does not include, if required, an Alaskan hunting license number, or that contains a false statement, is void.

Certification Statement

Based upon the Joint Boards subsistence procedures found in 5 AAC 99.010, the Board of Game has identified particular characteristics of customary and traditional use patterns of Nelchina caribou and moose, and has recognized these uses were established by Ahtna Athabascan communities within the Copper River basin, and were later adopted by other Alaska residents. The board has published these characteristics in 2006-170-BOG.

By affixing my signature below, I agree that I have read and understood the customary and traditional use patterns for uses of Nelchina caribou, moose, and other wild resources published in 2006-170-BOG, and furthermore, that I agree to observe the customary and traditional use patterns found therein.

_____ Date _____

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If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility please write: ADF&G ADA Coordinator, P.O. Box 115526, Juneau, AK 99811-5526 ; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042, Arlington, VA 22203; Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW MS 5230, Washington DC 20240.

The department's ADA Coordinator can be reached via phone at the following numbers: (VOICE) 907-465-6077; (Statewide Telecommunication Device for the Deaf) 1-800-478-3648; (Juneau TDD) 907-465-3646; (FAX) 907-465-6078; For information on alternative formats and questions on this publication, please contact the ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation at

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