

## Skeena Wildlife Regulation Change Proposal Form

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**Objective of Proposal** (describe what outcomes the regulation change is expected to achieve. For example change to bull:cow ratio, reduce crowding of hunters, etc):

Allow restriction of resident hunters, if necessary, once harvest management planning with First Nations has been completed to ensure that First Nations food, social, and ceremonial needs are not impacted.

**Proposal Description** (specific MU's, season dates, bag limits, attach a map if required, # of authorizations, etc):

MU 6-27, Aug 15 – Oct 15, 5 point bulls only, # of authorizations TBD

**Proposal Rationale** (provide supporting survey data\*, scientific literature, and/or traditional knowledge):

For several decades the Carcross/Tagish First Nation has promoted a hunting moratorium on Carcross herd caribou within their community. The Yukon Government eliminated licensed hunting of the herd in the same time frame. BC has maintained a general open season in the area for the duration of that period as the information on the herd and harvest rates shows this hunt to be sustainable given the current conditions. The Southern Lakes Caribou Recovery Team is meeting again after a long hiatus and a strategy is being developed to create a harvest management plan between the First Nations, Yukon Government, and BC Government on how to manage the herd. The plan would reintroduce First Nations harvest of caribou from the herd. By implementing an LEH season now it will allow us the ability to modify the amount of licensed harvest once the plan is developed. It is expected that between the First Nations harvest, Yukon licensed hunter harvest, and BC licensed harvest that there will need to be restrictions to the amount of harvest for licensed hunters to ensure First Nations food, social, and ceremonial needs are met. The initial number of LEH permits to be issued by FLNRO is planned to accommodate the existing number of resident hunters that have hunted caribou in the area in the past. These numbers will be adjusted in the future if/when necessary.

**Pros and Cons of Implementing this Proposal** (explain how the benefits of this proposal outweigh the costs):

Please submit to Conrad Thiessen at [conrad.thiessen@gov.bc.ca](mailto:conrad.thiessen@gov.bc.ca)

\*We encourage early communication with regional wildlife biologists regarding proposed changes particularly for those lacking survey data as we can provide advice on how to collect data to strengthen rationale for proposed change.

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### Pros:

- Will allow FLNRO to be responsive in changing the number of LEH permits to be issued once a harvest management plan is developed;
- FLNRO will be able to manage licensed harvest at a sustainable level for the herd;
- In the short term there will be no direct impact on the number of resident hunters that can access this hunt.

### Cons:

- Resident hunters will be required to apply for LEH permits to access this hunt;
- Future opportunity is likely to be reduced for licensed hunting from the Carcross herd;
- Guide outfitters will be restricted by quota, where they previously were not.

**Demonstrate how support was achieved for this proposal within your First Nation or stakeholder group** (e.g., voting results from members including total number polled, # support, # non-support, # indifferent, etc; concerns raised during discussion; efforts taken to reach as many individuals represented by your group):

**List First Nations and stakeholder groups (other than your own) that you contacted regarding the proposed regulation change** (include details of support or not for the proposal):

Carcross-Tagish First Nation, Taku River Tlingit, and Teslin Tlingit Council have recommended the licensed hunt for Carcross caribou be closed. Conversations with these First Nations is ongoing.

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