

# Western Arctic Caribou Herd Update

Point Hope Hunter meeting: April 10, 2026

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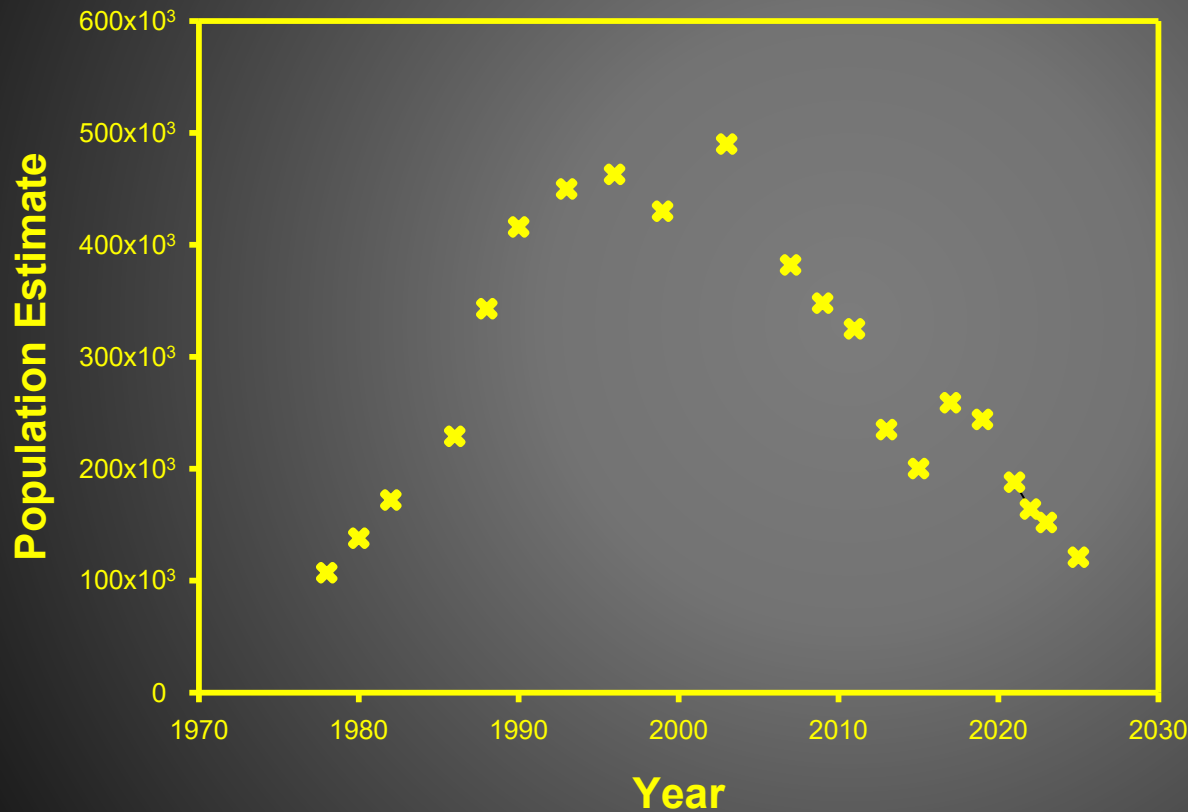


## Overview:

- **Western Arctic Herd population estimates and reasons for its decline**
- **Caribou Harvest Estimates**
- **Current State and Federal regulations**
- **WAH Working Group Proposals**
- **Community Feedback and Suggestions for Harvest Regulations**

# Western Arctic Caribou Population

## Western Arctic Population Herd Estimates



**152,000**  
in 2023

**121,000**  
in 2025

**\* Loss of 30,000 in  
2 years**

## Caribou Harvest Estimates

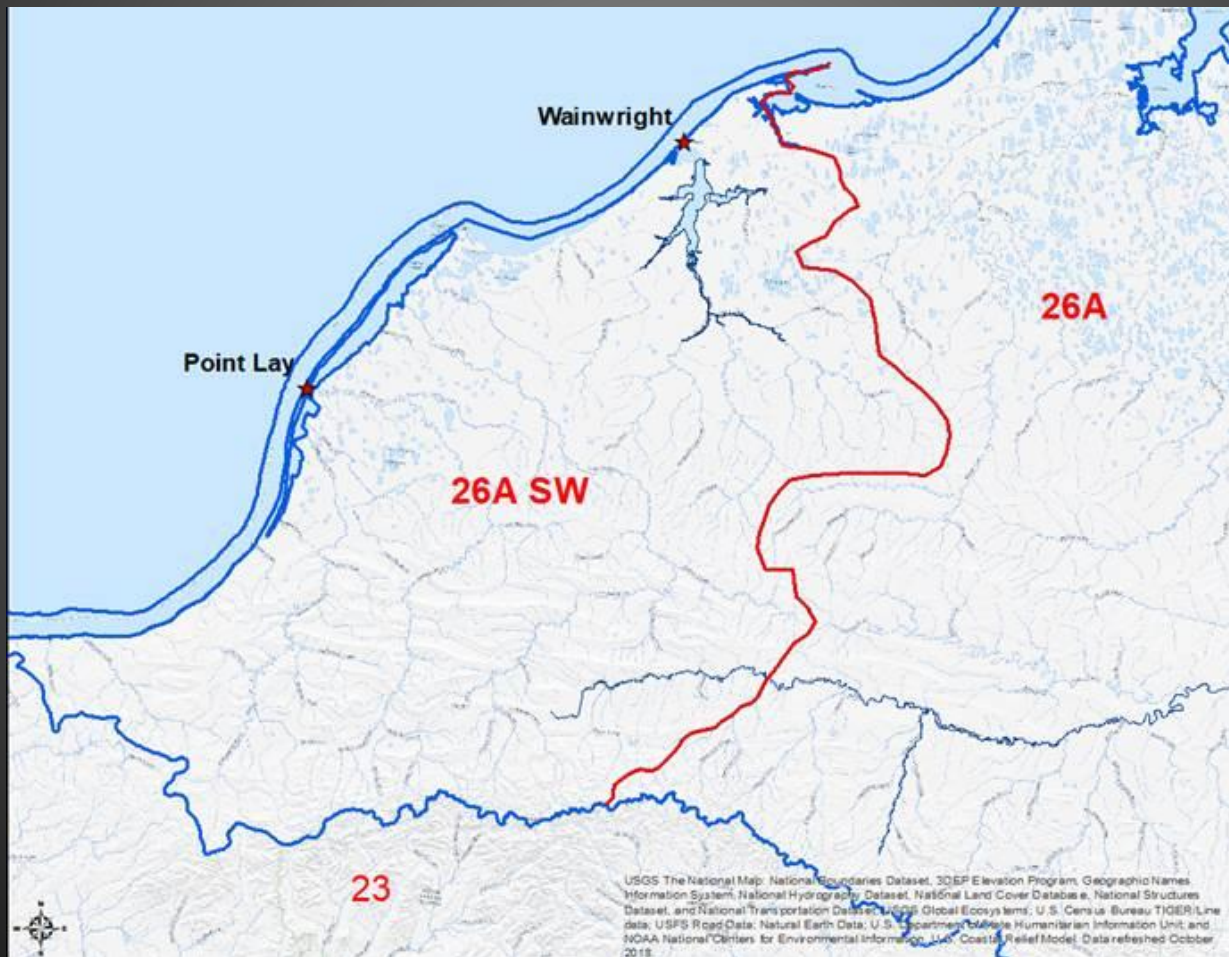
- **Wainwright harvests an average of 1,328 caribou per year: 71% are from the WAH**
- **Pont Lay harvests an average of 382 caribou per year: 95% are from the WAH**
- **Point Hope harvests an average of 515 caribou per year: 99.9 % are from the WAH**
- **We calculated this from telemetry data on the WAH and TCH and our Departments' harvest data on a monthly basis**
- **This represents 32% of the allowable harvest of 5,800 caribou**

## Current Caribou Harvest Regulations

- State and Federal regulations allow the harvest of 15 caribou per hunter per year of which only one can be a cow caribou.
- This became effective July 1, 2024.
- This affects the North Slope communities of Wainwright, Point Lay and Point Hope.
- It also effects all of GMU 23 and 22 (another 40 or so communities)

## Current Caribou Harvest Regulations (cont.)

- This is a map of the area for which the current caribou harvest regulations encompasses (the southwestern region of GMU 26A).



## Western Arctic Herd Working Group Proposals

- **Reduce harvest to 4 caribou per year per hunter of which only 1 can be a cow for both State and Federal regulations**
- **They also will submit a proposal to allow areal hunting of wolves by qualified individuals**
- **These would become effective July 1, 2027 if passed.**
- **They also set a threshold for a moratorium on all WAH caribou harvest if the population declines to 75,000 caribou until the population increases to 100,000**
- **That would require another Board of Game and Federal proposal**

# Discussion about an alternative proposal that our Advisory Committee could submit?

