

## INTERAGENCY STAFF COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Interagency Staff Committee recommendation is to **support** temporary special action request WSA19-06.

### **Justification:**

With approval of WSA19-06, Federal and State hunting regulations for the Fortymile Caribou Herd (FCH) will be aligned for the 2019/20 regulatory year. This will reduce user confusion and preclude Federal regulations from being more restrictive than State regulations. Harvest management and regulations are guided by the FCH Harvest Plan, which both the Federal Subsistence Board and the Alaska Board of Game endorsed. One of the recommendations in the harvest plan is for State and Federal managers to cooperatively manage FCH hunts. Expanding the authority delegated to the Federal in-season manager provides the flexibility required to coordinate with State managers in adjusting season dates and harvest limits in response to changing herd and hunt conditions. Aligning State and Federal regulations for the FCH may be especially prudent due to the complexity of harvest management for this herd (e.g. hunt zones, harvest quotas, emergency closures and openings, and heavy hunting pressure).