

N1615 (WRST-RM)

June 28, 1994

Memorandum

To:Chisana Caribou File, WRST

From:Management Biologist, WRST

Subject:Chisana Caribou Herd, summer composition survey

On June 17, 1994 myself and pilot Jim Hannah conducted the annual spring composition survey of the Chisana caribou herd. We flew the Park's Arctic Tern at 5,000 to 8,000 feet AGL under a lifting cloud ceiling. We monitored 27 frequencies (list attached) and counted and classified all associated caribou as adult or calf.

We located 18 collared caribou and classified 486 caribou in 14 groups.

Of the 486, 37 were calves for an estimated 7.6% calves in the herd.

The majority of the herd was in three large aggregations north and east of Solo Mountain, but small bands were observed from Cooper Pass south to the White River and from Solo Mountain east to the Canadian Border (maps). We did not search in to Canada and considering the number of small aggregations and the dispersion of the herd, I expect we missed a considerable portion of the herd.

Four of the missing frequencies were also missing in May. Searches of the Mentasta range have also been unsuccessful. We located one caribou that was not located in May. We retrieved collar 151.900, a previous mortality. The collar and remains were in a steep talus/avalanche chute at ~5,000 feet in Cooper Pass. Cause of death could not be identified. Teeth were collected for age determination.

Collar 151.880, also a previous mortality, was located in a channel of the White River.

Bill Route

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