

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 04-08-17

Issued at Palmer, Alaska
September 15, 2017

Effective Date: 12:01 AM.
Thursday
September 21, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m.
June 30, 2018, unless
superseded by subsequent
emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order extends the season for Nelchina Basin caribou hunts (CC001, RC566, DC485) from September 21 through September 30, 2017.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the provisions of **5AAC 85.025 (8), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Caribou**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

Units and Bag Limits

Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

Nonresident Open Season

(8)

Unit 13

1 caribou per regulatory
year, only as follows:

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou per regulatory
year by community
harvest household permit
only; up to 300 caribou
may be taken; or

Aug. 10 – Sept. 30
(Subsistence hunt only)
Oct. 21 – March 31
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season

1 caribou every regulatory
Year by Tier I subsistence
household permit only; or

Aug. 10 – Sept. 30
(Subsistence hunt only)
Oct. 21 – March 31
(Subsistence hunt only)

No open season

1 caribou every regulatory year by drawing permit; up to 5,000 permits may be issued

Aug. 20 – Sept. 30
Oct. 21 – March 31

No open season

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Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Todd A. Rinaldi
Management Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION:

A series of mild winters and relatively low predation have combined to boost Nelchina caribou herd numbers above the fall management objective of 35,000 to 40,000 animals. Recent analysis of herd productivity, mortality, and recruitment places the 2017 population estimate near last year's estimate of 49,550. As of Thursday, September 14, the reported harvest was 1,317 bulls and 1,328 cows, well below harvest objectives.

A portion of the Nelchina herd moved east and out of Unit 13 early in the fall season. While a large portion of the herd remains in Unit 13, there is the potential for the majority of the herd to migrate out of the Unit before or soon after the hunting season reopens in October. With current harvest well below harvest objectives, the early fall hunting season extension aims to maximize harvest while a large portion of the herd remains in Unit 13.

This emergency order changes only the season dates in Unit 13 for caribou. All other state hunting regulations still apply including the closure of the take of all big game in the Paxson Closed Area, and other restricted areas.

DISTRIBUTION:

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 - Management Coordinators
 - Area Wildlife Biologists
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