

Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. 04-09-11

Issued at Glennallen, Alaska
December 5, 2011

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m.
December 6, 2011

Expiration Date: June 30, 2012
unless Superseded by
subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the 2011-2012 Nelchina Caribou (Copper Basin) Community Subsistence Harvest (CSH) hunt (CC001) for the remainder of the season. The hunt closure is necessary to avoid exceeding the annual herd harvest quota.

The Nelchina Caribou tier I subsistence hunt (RC566) closed Saturday December 3; the department should have closed all state Nelchina caribou subsistence hunts in GMU 13 when it was evident that the harvest quota was going to be met.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the provisions of **5AAC 85.025 (a) (8), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Caribou**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective: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 harvest report per regulatory year by community harvest permit only; up to 300 caribou may be taken; or	Aug. 10 – Sept. 20 (Subsistence hunt only) Oct. 21 – Dec. 6 (Subsistence hunt only)	No open season
...		

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Rebecca Schwanke
Area Wildlife Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The harvest objective for the Nelchina caribou herd for the 2011-2012 season is 2,400. To date, a total of 2,363 caribou (653 cows, 1,708 bulls, 2 unk) have been reported taken during the state tier I (1,604), community subsistence harvest (83), drawing (311), and all federal subsistence hunting seasons (365).

The majority of caribou have moved out of Unit 13 for the winter, except for small resident groups scattered across the unit. Large numbers of Nelchina caribou have moved into the Tetlin Flats in Unit 12 and the Taylor Highway area of Unit 20E. Due to the high concentration of Nelchina caribou in the federal subsistence hunt areas along the Taylor and Alaska highways and mild weather this past weekend, considerable additional harvest likely occurred, for which harvest reports have yet to be received. Once all harvest reports are received, the total harvest is expected to meet or exceed the harvest quota.

This emergency order does not affect federal subsistence hunts. All federal hunters are encouraged to take bulls only for the remainder of the season.

The final 2011 Nelchina caribou herd population estimate was 40,233, prior to harvest. If the total harvest quota for 2011-2012 is met, the herd is expected to return to the management objective of 35,000–40,000.

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 - Regional Supervisors
 - Area Wildlife Biologists: Regions II, III, IV

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