

Cora Campbell, Commissioner



Division of Wildlife Conservation
PO Box 47
Glennallen, AK 99588
(907) 822-3461

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

NEWS RELEASE

Monday, December 05, 2011

**Contact: Rebecca Schwanke
822-3461**

Glennallen. The **2011-2012 Nelchina Caribou (Copper Basin) Community Subsistence Harvest (CSH) hunt will close by Emergency Order 04-09-11 at 11:59PM, Tuesday December 6th 2011.** The drawing caribou hunts in GMU 13 have been closed since October. 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.

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 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.