

Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 03-04-15

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska
August 26, 2015

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M.
September 1, 2015

Expiration Date: June 30, 2016
unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes hunting seasons for bison in Game Management Unit 19A at 12:01 A.M. on Tuesday, September 1, 2015. The remainder of Unit 19 will remain open to bison hunting by drawing permit only.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.010(a)(2), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR BISON**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting bison:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(2)		
Unit 19(A)	No open season	No open season
Units 19(B), (C) and 19(D)		
1 bison	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 (General hunt only) Mar. 1–Mar. 31 (General hunt only)	Sept. 1–Sept. 30 Mar. 1–Mar. 31
...		

All other bison hunting regulations in Unit 19 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

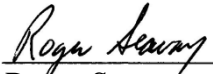
JUSTIFICATION:

Bison drawing permit hunts DI351 and DI352 are intended to provide opportunity to hunt plains bison from the Farewell herd, whose range is almost exclusively in Unit 19(C), and nearly all of the historic harvest comes from Unit 19(C). However, the hunt boundaries allow hunters to hunt plains bison throughout Unit 19.

During spring 2015 the department reintroduced wood bison into Unit 21(E), but the Alaska Board of Game has not authorized hunting of wood bison. Dispersing wood bison have been reported in the extreme western portion of Unit 19(A), making it a remote possibility that a Farewell bison permittee would be able to hunt a wood bison in that unit. This emergency order is intended to protect any dispersing wood bison from such take, while still allowing for plains bison harvest from within the normal range of the Farewell bison herd.

According to the Lower Innoko/Yukon Rivers Wood Bison Management Plan, a hunting season on wood bison will be considered when the harvestable surplus reaches 20 animals. This will likely not occur before 2019.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to: 
Roger Seavoy
Area Biologist

DISTRIBUTION:

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 - e. Nenana/Healy/Tanana
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16. Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
17. Kanuti National Wildlife Refuge
18. Tanana Chiefs Conference - Fairbanks
19. GASH Advisory Committee
20. Koyukuk Advisory Committee
21. Middle Yukon Advisory Committee
22. Ruby Advisory Committee
23. Tanana/Rampart/Manley Advisory Committee
24. Yukon Flats Advisory Committee
25. Minto-Nenana Advisory Committee
26. Alatna Village Council
27. Allakaket Village Council
28. Anaktuvuk Village Council
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30. Hughes Village Council
31. Huslia Village Council
32. Kaltag Village Council
33. Koyukuk Village Council
34. Nulato Village Council
35. Ruby Village Council
36. Louden Village Council
37. Grayling Village Council
38. Anvik Village Council
39. Kuskokwim Native Association
40. Chuathbaluk Traditional Council
41. Native Village of Lower Kalskag
42. Native Village of Napaimiut
43. Sleetmute Village Council
44. Crooked Creek Traditional Council
45. Lime Village Traditional Council
46. Red Devil Traditional Council
47. Stony River Traditional Council
48. Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments
49. McGrath Village Council
50. Nikolai Village Council
51. Steese Roadhouse
52. Department of Transportation, Bettles
53. Yukon Charley NWR – Eagle