

Division of Wildlife Conservation
Bruce Dale, Director
Region II, Anchorage Area Office
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK, 99518



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Sam Cotten, Commissioner
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Jeff Selinger
Area Biologist
Soldotna, (907) 260-2905
jeff.selinger@alaska.gov

Lynx Trapping Closures on Kenai Peninsula and Unit 14C Extended Through 2017

(SOLDOTNA) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has announced the lynx trapping season in Game Management Units 7 and 15 on the Kenai Peninsula will remain closed for the 2016-2017 trapping year. A hunting season is scheduled to open in GMUs 7 and 15 from January 1 through February 15, 2017. In GMU 14C, hunting and trapping seasons for lynx will remain closed.

Lynx trapping seasons in GMUs 7, 14C and 15 are managed using a harvest tracking strategy. When snowshoe hare populations (the major food source for lynx) are low, trapping seasons are closed. As snowshoe hare populations increase, so do lynx numbers and trapping is allowed to resume. Snowshoe hare populations eventually peak and then decline. Lynx populations follow a similar pattern, lagging by a few years as their main food source becomes scarce. Currently, the cycle is at a point where snowshoe hares remain well below peak numbers following the most recent decline.

This emergency order applies to all lands (state, federal, and private) currently open to trapping on the Kenai Peninsula and GMU 14C.

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