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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Lynx Trapping Closures on Kenai Peninsula and Unit 14C Extended Through 2016**

(SOLDOTNA) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has announced the lynx trapping season in Game Management Units (GMUs) 7 and 15 on the Kenai Peninsula will remain closed for the 2015-2016 trapping year. A hunting season is scheduled to open in GMUs 7 and 15 from January 1 through February 15. 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 major food source becomes scarce. Currently, we are at a point in the cycle where snowshoe hares are past their peak and have declined.

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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