

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 04-08-22

Issued at: Glennallen, Alaska
October 13, 2022

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m.
Thursday, October 20, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m.
June 30, 2023 unless superseded
by subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the winter seasons for Nelchina caribou state Tier I registration (RC561 and RC562), community subsistence harvest (CC001), and drawing (DC485) hunts within Game Management Unit 13. The department has determined that there is no harvestable surplus available for the 2022–23 state winter hunting seasons. It is in the best interest for conservation of the herd to protect those small, localized caribou groups remaining in Unit 13 after fall migration from overharvest by closing winter hunts. This emergency order does not affect any other caribou hunting regulations in Unit 13.

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Therefore, the provisions of **5AAC 85.025 (a) (8), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Caribou**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective: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 400 caribou may be taken; or	<u>Aug. 10–Sept. 20</u> (Subsistence Hunt only)	No open season

...

1 caribou every regulatory year by Tier I subsistence permit only; or

Aug. 10–Aug. 17
(Subsistence Hunt only)

No open season

...

1 caribou every regulatory year by Tier I subsistence permit only; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 13
(Subsistence Hunt only)

No open season

...

1 caribou every regulatory year by drawing permit only; or

Aug. 20–Sept. 20

No open season

....

All other caribou hunting regulations remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Heidi L. Hatcher
Glennallen Area Wildlife Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The 2022 summer estimate for the Nelchina caribou herd was 21,000 animals which is well below the fall population objective of 35,000–40,000 Nelchina caribou. The department determined that, for state hunts, fall harvest opportunity of up to 615 bulls could be offered without biological detriment to the population. Fall harvest and herd composition are reassessed after the fall hunt. Herd movements and potential impacts on herd conservation are considered when determining winter hunt opportunity. Given the low population numbers, the tendency for the herd to migrate out of Unit 13, and the increased stress of winter hunts on animals that remain within the unit, the department has determined that no additional harvest opportunity is available for these hunts during the winter season dates.

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 - Regional Supervisors
 - Area Wildlife Biologists: Regions II, III, IV
 - State-Federal Regulations Coordinator
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 - Detachment Commanders: Palmer
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9. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Regional Director, Anchorage
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10. U.S. Forest Service
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