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PRESS RELEASE

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Nelchina Caribou Hunts Close by Emergency Order

(Glennallen) – All state Nelchina caribou hunts in Game Management Unit 13 (CC001, RC566, and DC480-483) will close by emergency order at 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, October 10.

The fall caribou hunting season in Unit 13 ended on September 20, by regulation. This emergency order closes the winter season for all of the state hunts. Federal caribou hunting seasons in Unit 13 are not affected by this closure.

The 2013-2014 hunting season harvest quota for the Nelchina caribou herd is 2,500 caribou (2,200 bulls and 300 cows). It is anticipated that caribou harvested prior to September 20 under the state permit hunts in combination with caribou taken under federal subsistence permits will be sufficient to achieve this year's quota. To date, a total of 2,291 caribou (2,072 bulls and 219 cows) have been reported taken in the following hunts: Tier I (1,537), community subsistence harvest (112), drawing (589), and federal subsistence (53). The federal harvest has averaged 400 caribou annually over the past five years. Because the federal caribou hunt will remain open, the federal harvest is expected to increase this winter.

Hunters are asked to complete and return harvest reports as soon as possible (mail, online, or by phone to 822-3461). Hunters who fail to report in a timely manner may be fined and will be ineligible for permit hunts next year.

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