

Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. 03-02-15

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska
May 14, 2015

Effective Date: 11:59 P.M.
May 15, 2015

Expiration Date: June 30, 2015
unless superseded by subsequent
emergency order

EXPLANATION:

Hunting seasons for wolves in Game Management Unit 20C west of the Savage River and bounded by Denali National Park will close on Friday, May 15, 2015.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.056(a)(2), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR WOLVES**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting wolves:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(2) Units 12, 20A, 20B, 20C remainder, and 25(C)	Aug. 10-May 31	Aug. 10-May 31
10 wolves		

Unit 20C west of the Savage River
bounded by Denali National Park

Aug. 10-May 15

Aug. 10-May 15

10 wolves

...

All other wolf hunting regulations are not affected by this emergency order.

JUSTIFICATION:

The department has received new information that has led to the decision to close wolf hunting in the area of Game Management Unit 20C along the Stampede Trail near Denali National Park. Trapping seasons are already closed for this regulatory year.

The normal hunting season for wolves ends on May 31 in this area. There are no conservation concerns for wolves in Game Management Unit 20C, which includes a large portion of the park.

However, changes in bear hunting regulations have increased the chances of wolves that primarily inhabit the park being taken as they venture on to adjacent lands. On average, this general area has a harvest of about 4 wolves per year and, prior to this year, little of that harvest had occurred in May.

The controversy regarding the so-called "wolf buffer" is centered around the allocation of wolves between harvest through trapping and hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities for Park visitors. Allocation issues are the purview of the Board of Game.

This temporary closure will allow the board to revisit the issue in light of the new information without additional take of wolves this May adding to the controversy.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Bruce Dale, Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation

DISTRIBUTION:

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13. Local Magistrates
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14. Federal Office of Subsistence Management
15. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
16. Yukon-Charley National Preserve
17. Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge
18. US Bureau of Land Management
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19. Tanana Chiefs Conference
20. Ahtna
21. Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments
22. Dot Lake Village Council
23. Northway Village Council
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