**Hunting and Trapping**  
**Emergency Order**

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

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**Emergency Order No.** 03-02-15  
**Issued at:** Fairbanks, Alaska  
May 14, 2015

**Effective Date:** 11:59 P.M.  
**Expiration Date:** June 30, 2015  
May 15, 2015 unless superseded by subsequent emergency order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Therefore, the following regulations in 5AAC 85.056(a)(2), **HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR WOLVES**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting wolves:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units and Bag Limits</th>
<th>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</th>
<th>Nonresident Open Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(2) Units 12, 20A, 20B, 20C remainder, and 25(C)</td>
<td>Aug. 10-May 31</td>
<td>Aug. 10-May 31</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10 wolves
Emergency Order No. 03-02-15  

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

Aug. 10-May 15  

10 wolves  

Aug. 10-May 15  

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
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