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PRESS RELEASE

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Wolf Trapping & Hunting Seasons to Close in Unit 2

(Craig) – Biologists with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game announce the early closure of wolf trapping and hunting seasons in Game Management Unit (Unit) 2, which includes Prince of Wales and a series of small adjacent islands.

The current Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for Unit 2 wolves (25 wolves) was established by the department in cooperation with local trappers and the U.S. Forest Service. As of Tuesday, February 17, 2015, a total of 22 wolves have been harvested in Unit 2. Trappers are reminded that Unit 2 wolves must be sealed within 14 days of harvest.

The Department is continuing to refine population estimation techniques that will be used to establish future GHL determinations for Unit 2 wolves. As a result of a recent Alaska Board of Game action, in fall 2015 the allowable harvest of Unit 2 wolves will be reduced from 30% to 20% of the Unit's estimated fall wolf population. Conservative harvest levels and recent regulatory changes are intended to ensure the long-term sustainability of the Unit 2 wolf population.

An Emergency Order (01-01-15) has been issued that closes the wolf trapping and hunting seasons in Unit 2 on Sunday, February 22, 2015 at 11:59pm.

All other hunting and trapping seasons in Unit 2 remain unchanged and are unaffected by this emergency order. Department biologists have been in discussions with federal managers, who are implementing a concurrent closure to federal wolf hunting and trapping seasons in Unit 2.

For more information concerning this emergency closure, please contact the Ketchikan Area Office at (907) 225-2475 or the Craig Area Office at (907) 826-2561.

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