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## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release: March 30, 2018*

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### **Wolf Hunting, Trapping along Stampede Trail Closed by Emergency Order**

An emergency order issued today by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game closes wolf hunting and trapping in part of Game Management Unit 20C along the Stampede Trail west of the Savage River, including lands adjacent to the eastern boundary of Denali National Park and Preserve. Hunters may harvest wolves until 11:59 p.m. Monday, April 2; trappers may harvest wolves until 11:59 p.m. Monday, April 9. This wolf harvest closure is done in an effort to manage harvest closer to the previous 5-year average.

Prior to the emergency closure, trapping season for wolves in Unit 20C was scheduled to run through April 30, and hunting season through April 15. Preliminary data indicate up to eight wolves have been taken this year in the area near the Stampede Trail, though exact harvest locations are unknown. Trappers have until 30 days after the season closes to report harvest so a final tally won't be known until then. Over the last five years, the average area harvest has been about four wolves per year.

"Current levels of wolf harvest do not cause a biological or conservation problem for wolves in Unit 20C, which includes a large portion of Denali National Park and Preserve, however, there is the potential for more wolves to be harvested this season." said Division of Wildlife Conservation Director Bruce Dale.

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