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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: August 8, 2019

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2019 Nelchina Caribou Hunt Quotas

(Glennallen) – The department’s July 2019 post-calving photocensus identified a minimum of 53,500 caribou for the Nelchina caribou herd. Roughly 35,850 caribou are adults, while there are roughly 17,650 calves this year. This leaves enough adults to allow permit holders to harvest either sex in 2019, and quotas for each hunt are not likely to be reached during the fall season, allowing all hunts to run the duration of their scheduled seasons. Harvest will be evaluated after September 20th to determine if all hunts will re-open for the regularly scheduled winter season on October 21st. At this time, it is expected that all hunts (except YC495) will re-open for the winter season.

The department has determined an initial 2019 quota of 3,950 caribou harvested from the Nelchina herd. With an expected federal harvest of 500 caribou, this leaves 3,450 caribou for state-managed hunts. Initial 2019 quotas for state-managed hunts are as follows:

| Hunt | Number of 2019 Permits | 2019 Quota |
|-------|------------------------|------------|
| YC495 | 200 | 100 |
| DC485 | 400 | 250 |
| CC001 | 811 | 400 |
| RC561 | 2,788 | 1,350 |
| RC562 | 2,884 | 1,350 |
| | | 3,450 |

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game issued an emergency order on July 31st, 2019 to change the bag limit to any caribou for all Unit 13 state-managed caribou hunts (RC561, RC562, CC001, DC485, and YC495). Hunt updates and additional information will be available on the Nelchina hotline at (907) 267-2304.

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