Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 04-02-20

Issued at Dillingham, Alaska
January 28, 2020

Effective Date: 11:59 pm.
January 31, 2020

Expiration Date: June 30, 2020
unless superseded by subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

Caribou registration permit hunt RC503 for the Mulchatna caribou herd in portions of Game Management Units 9A, 9B, 9C, 17A, 17B, 17C, 18, 19A and 19B will close at 11:59 pm, January 31, 2020. Federal hunting opportunity on federal lands under this same permit (RC503) was closed on December 31, 2019.

All other caribou hunting regulations for Units 9, 17, 18 and 19 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in 5AAC 85.025, Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Caribou, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence General Hunts)

Nonresident
Open Season

Units and Bag Limits

(3)

Unit 9(A) and that portion of Unit 9(C) within the Alagnak River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 caribou by registration permit only

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
No open season.

Unit 9(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

Aug. 1–Jan. 31

1
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1 caribou by registration permit only

**Aug. 1–Jan. 31**

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Unit 9(C), that portion north of the north bank of the Naknek River and south of the Alagnak River drainage

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

...  

1 caribou by registration permit only

**Aug. 1–Jan. 31**

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season.

...  

Remainder of Unit 17(A)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou by registration permit only

**Aug. 1–Jan. 31**

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season

...  

Unit 17(B), that portion in the Unit 17(B) Nonresident Closed Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 caribou by registration permit only

**Aug. 1–Jan. 31**

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

No open season

Remainder of Unit 17(B), and that portion of 17(C) east of the east banks of the Wood River, Lake Aleknagik, Agulowak River, Lake Nerka, and the
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Agulupak River

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RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 caribou by registration permit only  Aug. 1–Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
... No open season

(13)

Unit 18

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 caribou by registration permit only  Aug. 1–Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
... No open season

(14)

Unit 19(A), that portion with the Lime Village Management Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 caribou by registration permit only  Aug. 1–Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
... No open season

Units 19(A) and 19(B) within the Nonresident Closed Area

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 caribou by registration permit only  Aug. 1–Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
... No open season

Remainder of Unit 19(A) and 19(B)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:
1 caribou by registration permit only  Aug. 1–Jan. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:
... No open season
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All other caribou hunting regulations remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:

[Signature]

Lauren Watine
Dillingham Area Wildlife Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:
The RC503 permit area covers the range the Mulchatna caribou herd in portions of Units 9, 17, 18 and 19. The population of Mulchatna caribou herd has been estimated between 20,000–30,000 animals for the past several years. However recent survey information indicates that the herd is now further below the population objective of 30,000–80,000 caribou and management action must take place for the conservation of the herd. In August 2019, the bag limit under state permit RC503 was changed from two caribou to one caribou as a first conservation step. After receiving reviewing all biological information and consulting with residents, stakeholders and the Board of Game, it was decided that the most prudent action would be to close the hunt for the remainder of the regulatory year. Hunt permit reports are due within 15 days of hunt closure and are now due. The department will continue to collect information on the status of the herd and will be conducting another population survey in June/July 2020. Additional state caribou hunting opportunities remain on the Nushagak Peninsula (RC501) and under general harvest in Unit 19C and 19D.

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