



NEWS RELEASE



Alaska Department of Fish and Game

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2019 GMU 2 season closure reminder for wolf hunting, trapping

CRAIG, Alaska – Biologists with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service (USFS), announce the closure of the state and federal wolf hunting and trapping seasons on January 15, 2020 at 11:59 p.m. This closure was originally announced by Emergency Order 01-17-19 on October 29, 2019. All wolves must be sealed within 30 days of the end of the hunting and trapping seasons (February 14, 2020).

The current wolf management strategy addresses harvest of GMU 2 wolves by adjusting trapping season length based on ADF&G's most recent wolf population estimate and a population objective. At the January 2019 meeting in Petersburg, the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) implemented this strategy, including establishing a GMU 2 wolf population objective of 150-200 wolves and aligning the state trapping season start date with the federal season. The Board also endorsed ADF&G's harvest management plan, which lists trapping season lengths based on whether the most recent Unit 2 wolf population estimate is within, above, or below the population objective range. The plan was received favorably by local advisory committees, the regional advisory council, GMU 2 communities and local trappers.

Data collected from October through December 2018 resulted in a GMU 2 population estimate of 170 wolves. This is the most current population estimate. This estimate was lower than estimates in fall 2016 (231 wolves) and fall 2017 (225 wolves) but well within the population objective range of 150-200 wolves established by the BOG. Under ADF&G's harvest management plan, when the most current population estimate is within the objective range (150-200) the trapping season may be up to two months long.

For more information please contact the ADF&G office in Ketchikan at (907) 225-2475 or the U.S. Forest Service Craig Ranger District at (907) 826-1600. Maps of Federal lands within GMU 2 are available at Forest Service offices. Maps and additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be found on the web at <http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/index.cfm>.

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