EXPLANATION:
This emergency order closes the winter seasons for Nelchina caribou state Tier I registration (RC561 and RC562), community subsistence harvest (CC001), and drawing (DC485) hunts within Game Management Unit 13. The harvestable surplus available for these hunts has been met for the 2021–22 hunting season, and the majority of the Nelchina herd has migrated out of Unit 13. Closure of winter hunts will protect small, localized groups remaining in Unit 13 from overharvest. This emergency order does not affect any other caribou hunting regulations in Unit 13.

REGULATION:
Therefore, the provisions of 5AAC 85.025 (a) (8), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Caribou, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Units and Bag Limits</th>
<th>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</th>
<th>Nonresident Open Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 13</td>
<td>Aug. 10–Sept. 20 (Subsistence Hunt only)</td>
<td>No open season</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 caribou per harvest report per regulatory year by community harvest permit only; up to 400 caribou may be taken; or
Emergency Order No. 04-12-21  
Oct. 12, 2021

... 

1 caribou every regulatory year by Tier I subsistence permit only; or 

Aug. 10–Aug. 17  
(Subsistence Hunt only)  
No open season

... 

1 caribou every regulatory year by Tier I subsistence permit only; or 

Sept. 1–Sept. 9  
(Subsistence Hunt only)  
No open season

... 

1 caribou every regulatory year by drawing permit only; or 

Aug. 20–Aug. 31  
No open season

... 

All other caribou hunting regulations remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Doug Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner

By delegation to:  

Heidi L. Hatcher  
Glennallen Area Wildlife Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

To maintain the population objective of 35,000–40,000 Nelchina caribou, harvest quotas are modified annually. The harvest quota for the Nelchina caribou herd for the 2021–2022 season is 1,600 caribou. The department believes that harvest of approximately 1,250 caribou from the state hunts and additional federal harvest can be taken sustainably while allowing for modest growth and providing for subsistence opportunity. A preliminary harvest of 1,640 animals have been reported. The 2021–2022 harvestable surplus for state hunts was taken during the fall seasons. No additional harvest opportunity is available for these hunts during the winter season dates. Furthermore, the majority of the Nelchina herd has migrated out of Unit 13 and this closure for winter seasons will protect localized groups of caribou remaining in Unit 13 from overharvest.
DISTRIBUTION:

This emergency order is distributed to the recipients listed below. Copies are available from Department of Fish and Game offices in Glennallen, Palmer, Delta Junction, Tok, Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks.

1. The Honorable Lieutenant Governor
2. Assistant Attorney General (Board of Game Liaison), Anchorage
3. Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game
4. Division of Wildlife Conservation:
   Director
   Deputy Director
   Assistant Director
   Regulations Coordination Team
   Regional Supervisors
   Area Wildlife Biologists: Regions II, III, IV
   State-Federal Regulations Coordinator
   Webmaster
5. Division of Boards Executive Director
   Board of Game members
6. Division of Subsistence
   Director
7. Public Communications, ADF&G, Juneau
8. Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers
   Detachment Commanders: Palmer
   Detachment Field Offices: Glennallen, Cantwell, Delta, Palmer, Talkeetna, and Tok
9. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
   Regional Director, Anchorage
   Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage
10. U.S. Forest Service
    Supervisor, Chugach National Forest
11. U.S. Bureau of Land Management
    Glennallen Field Office
12. U.S. National Park Service
    Superintendent, Denali National Park
13. Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation
    Director
14. Magistrates: Glennallen
15. Chairmen, Fish and Game Advisory Committees
    Copper Basin
    Tok Cut-off/Nabesna Rd.
    Paxson
    Denali
16. Metropolitan and local newspapers
17. Metropolitan and local radio stations