

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. 03-04-22

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska
August 8, 2022

Effective Date: 12:00 AM
August 10, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 PM
June 30, 2023 unless
superseded by subsequent
emergency order

EXPLANATION:

The Board of Game adopted framework bag limits for ptarmigan in Game Management Units 12, 20, and 25C and delegated authority to the department to adjust bag limits within this framework based on population trends. This emergency order adjusts bag limits for regulatory year 2022-2023. In addition to this emergency order, adjusted bag limits are printed in the 2022–2023 Hunting Regulation Book No. 63.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.065(a)(3), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting ptarmigan:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(3) Ptarmigan (rock, willow, and white- tailed)		
...		
Units 12, 20, and 25(C)		
20 per day, 40 in possession 5 per day, 10 in possession	Aug. 10-Feb 28 Mar. 1–Apr. 30	Aug. 10-Feb 28 Mar. 1–Apr. 30
...		

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

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Lincoln Parrett
Region 3 Supervisor

JUSTIFICATION:

To ensure adequate protection of the ptarmigan population and to optimize hunter opportunity, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game estimates population status and trend, and the amount and timing of harvest. In Interior Alaska, ptarmigan populations exhibit large fluctuations in abundance largely in response to weather and predation.

Harvest impacts ptarmigan in different ways depending on their abundance. Studies conducted in Alaska and western Canada indicate harvest has little impact when populations are high. However, harvest can have significant effects when populations are low, especially in areas that get heavily hunted and in late winter after most other sources of mortality have declined or if resident breeding birds are taken. Based on spring survey data (5-year-average) collected along survey routes adjacent to the Interior road system and hunter observations, ptarmigan populations appear to be decreasing in abundance in the eastern Interior near Tok and near Eagle Summit although data from near Delta suggest numbers are stable to slightly increasing. At this

time, late season bag limits and season dates for ptarmigan in Units 12, 20, and 25C will remain as stated in this Emergency Order. This will ensure that populations of ptarmigan that are easily accessible during the breeding season are not overharvested.

Managing ptarmigan seasons and bag limits based on population trends allows both the greatest hunting opportunity during population highs and adequate protection when there are few birds.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution of this Emergency Order is to the following list. Copies are available from the Department of Fish and Game office in Fairbanks.

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 - a. Director
 - b. Deputy Director
 - c. Regional Supervisors
 - d. Regulations Coordination Team
 - e. Area Offices, Statewide
 - f. Information Management
 - g. Wildlife Information Centers
6. State/Federal Regulations Coordinator
 - a. Anchorage
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7. Division of Subsistence
 - a. Fairbanks
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9. Division of Boards
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 - b. Boards Coordinator, Fairbanks
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 - d. Advisory Committees
 - i. Anchorage
 - ii. Central
 - iii. Eagle
 - iv. Delta Junction
 - v. Fairbanks
 - vi. Healy
 - vii. Mat-Su
 - viii. Minto-Nenana
 - ix. Tok Cutoff-Nabesna Rd
 - x. Upper Tanana-Fortymile
 - xi. Yukon Flats
10. ADF&G Public Communication Section
11. ADF&G Webmaster
12. Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT)
 - a. Director
 - b. Board of Game liaison
 - c. Information and Public Affairs
 - d. Enforcement Staff
13. Local Magistrates
 - a. Delta Junction
 - b. Healy
 - c. Nenana
 - d. Tok
14. Federal Office of Subsistence Management
15. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
16. Yukon-Charley National Preserve
17. Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge
18. US Bureau of Land Management
 - a. Anchorage
 - b. Fairbanks
19. Tanana Chiefs Conference
20. Ahtna
21. Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments
22. Dot Lake Village Council
23. Northway Village Council
24. Tetlin IRA Council
25. Gold Country Services
26. Eagle Trading Post