

# Hunting and Trapping

## Emergency Order

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** R4-2-24

**Issued at:** Glennallen, Alaska  
July 2, 2024

**Effective Date:** 11:59 p.m.  
Tuesday, July 2, 2024

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 p.m.  
June 30, 2025 unless superseded  
by subsequent emergency order

### EXPLANATION:

This emergency order changes the bag limit for DI454 from one bison to one bull and shortens the season to four months. The Copper bison herd has experienced a substantial decline in abundance following a third successive severe deep snow winter. Minimum counts and statistical population estimates both suggest that the Copper bison herd will be below the objective of maintaining a minimum of 60 adults this winter. While the 2024 calf crop is promising, those animals have not yet been recruited into the population and the low number of adults will pose a conservation concern if the herd continues to decline. The Copper bison herd cannot sustain cow harvest at this time and a shorter hunting season is necessary to avoid overharvest of bulls.

### REGULATION:

Therefore, the provisions of **5AAC 85.010 (a) (1), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for bison**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season (General Hunt only)</b>
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(1)

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Unit 11, east of the Copper River, south of the Klawasi River, and west of a line from Mount Sanford to Mount Wrangell to Long Glacier, and west of the Kotsina River, and that

portion of Unit 13(D) east of the Edgerton Highway

1 **bull** every 10 regulatory years by drawing permit only; up to 50 permits may be issued;

Sept. 1– **Dec. 31**

Sept. 1– **Dec. 31**

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

Doug Vincent-Lang  
Commissioner

By delegation to:



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Heidi L. Hatcher  
Glennallen Area Wildlife Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The 2024 summer minimum population count for the Copper bison herd was 51 adults with 16 calves. While there may be more bison that were not observed, statistical estimates suggest that the herd is not likely to be significantly larger than 76 animals total. The management objective for this herd is to maintain a minimum of 60 adults. This herd cannot sustain cow harvest at this time, and minimal bull harvest is available for RY24 permit holders. Minimal bull-only draw permits will be issued for RY25 in an effort to allow the herd to recover.