

Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. R3-14-26

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska
October 15th, 2026

Effective Date: 11:59 P.M
October 31, 2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 PM
June 30, 2027 unless by
superseded subsequent
emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This announcement closes the caribou season in the portion of Game Management Unit 24A south of an east-west line extending from the point at the south bank of the South Fork Koyukuk River at the Dalton Highway crossing near N67° 01.104', W150° 17.352', and that portion of Game Management Unit 25D drained by the west fork of the Dall River west of 150° W. Long.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.025(a)(19), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting caribou:

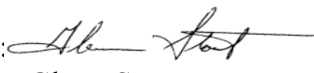
Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
(19)		
...		
Unit 24(A), that portion south of an east-west line extending from the point at the south bank of the South Fork Koyukuk River at the Dalton Highway crossing near N67° 01.104', W150° 17.352', and that portion of Unit 25(D) drained by the west fork of the Dall River west of 150° W. long.		

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
1 caribou	Aug. 10 - Oct. 31	Aug. 10 – Sept. 30

...

All other caribou hunting regulations in Game Management Units 24 and 25 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to: 
Glenn Stout
Wildlife Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

In the spring of 2026, the Department of the Interior conveyed approximately 1.4 million acres of land along the Dalton Highway Corridor, including land within Game Management Units 24A and 25D, to the State of Alaska through the Alaska Statehood Act. Alongside this land conveyance, winter snowmachine use from November 1 – April 15 was authorized on RS 2477 trails, annually.

The Hodzana Hills caribou herd (HHH), which spans Game Management Unit 24A south of the South Fork Koyukuk River and Game Management Unit 25D drained by the west fork of the Dall River west of 150° W Long., is a small, non-migratory herd of 400-600 animals with a harvestable surplus of approximately 20 animals per year depending on the most recent population count. Since 2020, an average of 8.7 HHH caribou were harvested per year. Harvest levels below the harvestable surplus can be attributed to the limited accessibility of the HHH due to the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area which prohibits motorized access within and across the corridor for hunting.

Due to recent changes in land access (i.e. use of snowmobiles in winter), harvest has the potential to exceed the harvestable surplus of the HHH during the winter in Game Management Units 24A and 25D. As a conservation measure to avoid overharvest, the caribou hunt within the portion of Game Management Units 24A and 25D defined above will close on October 31, 2026 at 11:59 PM.