

# Hunting and Trapping

## Emergency Order

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No. 03-03-23**

**Issued at:** Fairbanks, Alaska  
April 5, 2023

**Effective Date:** 12:01 AM  
August 10, 2023

**Expiration Date:** 11:59 PM  
June 30, 2024 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superseded by subsequent  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 2023–2024. In addition to this emergency order, adjusted bag limits are printed in the 2023–2024 Hunting Regulation Book No. 64.

### **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Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.065(a)(3), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting ptarmigan: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 29 Mar. 1–Apr. 30	Aug. 10-Feb 29 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:

Jason Caikoski  
Management Coordinator

### **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 survey data (5-year-average) collected along survey routes adjacent to the Interior road system and hunter observations, ptarmigan populations appear to be stable or slightly increasing in abundance although data from near Delta suggest willow ptarmigan may be decreasing. 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:**

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    - ix. Tok Cutoff-Nabesna Rd
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17. Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge
18. US Bureau of Land Management
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19. Tanana Chiefs Conference
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22. Dot Lake Village Council
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