

Cora Campbell, Commissioner



Division of Wildlife Conservation
PO Box 47
Glennallen, AK 99588
(907) 822-3461

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday, October 25, 2011

**Contact: Rebecca Schwanke
822-3461**

Glennallen. The **2011-2012 Nelchina Caribou drawing hunts within GMU 13 will close by Emergency Order 04-07-11 at 11:59PM, Friday October 28th 2011.** The four hunts affected are DC480, DC481, DC482, and DC483. This emergency order does not affect any other caribou hunting regulations applicable to GMU 13.

The harvest objective for the Nelchina caribou herd for the 2011-2012 season is 2,400. To date, a total of 2,099 caribou have been reported taken during the state tier I (1500), community subsistence harvest (70), drawing (270), and federal subsistence hunting seasons (259). Over the past 10 years, the federal subsistence winter season harvest has averaged 233 caribou, although the federal winter harvest is highly variable depending on caribou availability. At least 70 additional caribou will be available for harvest by State subsistence hunters.

The health of Nelchina Herd appears to be good, with exceptional calf productivity and early survival this spring (63 calves / 100 cows). Calf recruitment will be somewhat lower than expected this year, with a total of 45 calves / 100 cows estimated in the population during the early October composition survey. The final 2011 population estimate is 40,233. If the total harvest quota for 2011-2012 is met, the herd is expected to return to the management objective of 35,000– 40,000.

Nelchina caribou hunters with subsistence permits are encouraged to keep checking the caribou hotline (267-2304) for the total reported harvest, and information on further Emergency Closures.