

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 03-04-18

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska
June 21, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 AM
July 1, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 PM
June 30, 2019 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superseded by subsequent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 2018–2019. In addition to this emergency order, adjusted bag limits are printed in the 2018–2019 Hunting Regulation Book No. 59.

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Therefore, the following regulations in **5 AAC 85.065(a)(3), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR SMALL GAME**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting ptarmigan: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

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Doreen Parker McNeill
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 late winter after most other sources of mortality have declined or if resident breeding birds are taken. Based on recent survey data from these game management units, ptarmigan populations appear to be decreasing in abundance. Therefore, late season bag limits and season dates for ptarmigan in Units 12, 20, and 25C will remain as stated in this Emergency Order, and as printed in the hunting regulations booklet for 1 July 2018 through 30 June 2019. 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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 - c. Regional Supervisors
 - d. Regulations Coordination Team
 - e. Area Offices, Statewide
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 - viii. Minto-Nenana
 - ix. Tok Cutoff-Nabesna Rd
 - x. Upper Tanana-Fortymile
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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
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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
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