

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 04-02-18

Issued at: Palmer, Alaska
August 3, 2018

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m.
Thursday, August 10, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m.
June 30, 2019 unless
superseded by subsequent
emergency order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order changes the bag limit for all state Nelchina caribou hunts in Game Management Unit 13 (i.e., RC561, RC562, CC001, and DC485) from one either sex caribou to bull-only and changes the reporting requirements for all caribou hunts in Unit 13 to three days beginning on August 10, 2018. This emergency order does not affect any other caribou hunting regulation in Unit 13.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the provisions of **5AAC 85.025 (a) (8), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Caribou**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(8)		
Unit 13		
1 bull per harvest report per regulatory year by community harvest permit only; up to 400 caribou may be taken; or	Aug. 10–Sept. 20 (Subsistence Hunt only) Oct. 21–March 31 (Subsistence Hunt only)	No open season
1 bull every regulatory year by Tier I subsistence permit only; or	Aug. 10–Aug. 31 (Subsistence Hunt only) Oct. 21–March 31	No open season

(Subsistence Hunt only)

1 bull every regulatory year by Tier I subsistence permit only; or

Sept. 1–Sept. 1
(Subsistence Hunt only)
Oct. 21–March 31
(Subsistence Hunt only)

No open season

1 bull every regulatory year by drawing permit; up to 5,000 permits may be issued

Aug. 20–Sept. 20
Oct. 21–March 31

No open season

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

Sam Cotten
Commissioner



By delegation to:

Todd A. Rinaldi
Regional Management Coordinator

JUSTIFICATION:

To maintain the population objective of 35,000–40,000 Nelchina caribou, harvest quotas are modified annually. Information collected from collared caribou during the winter and spring indicate that the herd experienced higher than anticipated winter mortality. When the herd returned to the Nelchina Basin, fewer calves were produced further impacting herd size. Additional information suggests that a few animals also wintered with the Fortymile Caribou Herd and did not return. The July 2018 post-calving survey of the herd estimated approximately 35,700 caribou which is near the lower end of the population objective. The department believes that harvest of approximately 1,400 bull caribou from the state season and additional federal harvest can be taken sustainably while allowing for modest growth and providing for subsistence opportunity. A three-day harvest reporting requirement online or by phone will provide managers the necessary information to closely track in season harvest and to close hunts by emergency order ensuring that individual harvest quotas are not exceeded.

DISTRIBUTION:

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 - Regional Supervisors
 - Area Wildlife Biologists: Regions II, III, IV
 - State-Federal Regulations Coordinator
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5. Division of Boards Executive Director
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9. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Regional Director, Anchorage
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