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Advisory Announcement

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RC561 Nelchina Caribou Hunt to Close by Emergency Order

(Glennallen) – Nelchina caribou hunt RC561 will close by emergency order for the remainder of the August hunting season on Wednesday, August 17, at 11:59 p.m. The harvest quota of 140 bull caribou for RC561 has been reached.

In recent years the size of the Nelchina caribou herd has been above objectives, affording extra harvest opportunity to reduce the herd to within population objectives. This year, severe winter conditions and late spring thaw resulted in higher-than-normal adult mortality and low recruitment of calves into the population. Spring migration and calving occurred late, and a small portion of the herd did not return from the wintering grounds. Furthermore, production and survival of this spring's calf crop is low. These factors combine to reduce the Nelchina caribou herd to an estimated 21,000 caribou. As a result, available harvest is lower than in recent years, as the goal is now focused on growing the herd. The fall quotas and expected harvest below reflect the Board of Game direction to distribute hunter opportunity and harvest for this important caribou herd.

Hunt	Number of 2022 Permits	2022 Fall Quota
YC495	200	70 ^a
DC475	-	-
DC485	499	70
RC561	2,449	140
RC562	2,839	140
CC001	827	195
		615 ^b

^a The season for YC495 will run August 1–5 and the harvest is expected to be 70 bulls.

^b This does not reflect an expected harvest of nearly 400 animals in the federal hunts.

Nelchina caribou drawing permit hunt DC485 is scheduled to open August 20 – Sept. 20, and the second Tier I hunt, RC562, is scheduled to open Sept. 1 – Sept. 20. Both will be subject to early closure once quotas are reached. A reassessment of quotas will take place after the fall hunts close and composition surveys are completed in early October. It is likely that no winter seasons will open.

Hunt updates and additional information will be available on the Nelchina hotline at (907) 267-2304.

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