

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. R4-01-23

Issued at: Glennallen, Alaska
June 30, 2023

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m.
Friday, June 30, 2023

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m.
June 30, 2024 unless superseded
by subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the Nelchina caribou state Tier I registration (RC561 and RC562) and community subsistence harvest (CC001) hunts within Game Management Unit 13. The department has determined that there is no harvestable surplus available for the 2023–24 state hunting seasons. Closure of all hunts is in the best interest for conservation of the herd for the 2023–24 season. The closure releases households from the Unit 13 hunting restriction associated with permits RC561/562 and CC001.

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Therefore, the provisions of **5AAC 85.025 (a) (8), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Caribou**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective: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 caribou per harvest report per regulatory year by community harvest permit only; up to 400 caribou may be taken; or	<u>No open season</u>	No open season
...		

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

No open season

No open season

...

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

No open season

No open season

...

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

Doug Vincent-Lang
Commissioner

By delegation to:



Heidi L. Hatcher
Glennallen Area Wildlife Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The 2022 fall estimate for the Nelchina caribou herd was 17,433 animals which is well below the fall population objective of 35,000–40,000 Nelchina caribou. Bull-only hunts were offered in RY22 due to a surplus of bulls, but that bull component has been harvested and no harvestable surplus is anticipated for RY23. Productivity and recruitment for Nelchina caribou in 2022 and 2023 were not sufficient to grow the herd to compensate for the level of overwinter mortality documented in collared animals. With the herd well-below objectives, there will be no harvestable surplus for RY23. Households are released from Unit 13 hunting restrictions that are associated with their RC561, RC562, or CC001 permit. Community Subsistence Moose Harvest participants will be able to hunt caribou outside of the CM300 hunt area but are not released from the remaining CM300 permit conditions.

DISTRIBUTION:

This emergency order is distributed to the recipients listed below. Copies are available from Department of Fish and Game offices in Glennallen, Palmer, Delta Junction, Tok, Anchorage, Juneau, and Fairbanks.

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 - Deputy Director
 - Assistant Director
 - Regulations Coordination Team
 - Regional Supervisors
 - Area Wildlife Biologists: Regions II, III, IV
 - State-Federal Regulations Coordinator
 - Webmaster
5. Division of Boards Executive Director
 - Board of Game members
6. Division of Subsistence
 - Director
7. Public Communications, ADF&G, Juneau
8. Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers
 - Detachment Commanders: Palmer
 - Detachment Field Offices: Glennallen, Cantwell, Delta, Palmer, Talkeetna, and Tok
9. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Regional Director, Anchorage
 - Office of Subsistence Management, Anchorage
10. U.S. Forest Service
 - Supervisor, Chugach National Forest
11. U.S. Bureau of Land Management
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12. U.S. National Park Service
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