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NEWS RELEASE

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Glennallen. The bag limit for state subsistence Nelchina Caribou hunts will **change from either sex to bull only for the remainder of the season by Emergency Order 04-05-11 at 11:59PM, Thursday September 15th 2011.** The two hunts affected are the Copper Basin Community Subsistence Harvest caribou hunt (CC001) and the Tier I (RC566) hunt. 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 (1,850 bulls and 550 cows). To date, 932 bulls and 519 cows have been reported taken during the state Tier I, Community Subsistence Harvest, drawing, and Federal Subsistence hunting seasons. Additional harvests of caribou during the remainder of the federal subsistence season and those not yet reported from state hunts are expected to raise the total harvest of cows to the cow harvest objective for the year.

The health of Nelchina Herd appears to be good, with exceptional calf productivity and early survival this spring (63 calves / 100 cows). The preliminary summer population estimate this year of 40,915 is down from the 44,330 estimated in 2010. If the total harvest quota for 2011 is met, the herd is expected to return to the management objective of 35,000– 40,000.

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