

Cora Campbell, Commissioner



Division of Wildlife Conservation
PO Box 47
Glennallen, AK 99588
(907) 822-3461

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

NEWS RELEASE

Friday, December 02, 2011

**Contact: Rebecca Schwanke
822-3461**

Glennallen. The **2011-2012 Nelchina Caribou Tier I hunt within GMU 13 will close by Emergency Order 04-08-11 at 11:59PM, Saturday December 3rd 2011.** The drawing caribou hunts within GMU 13 have been closed since October. This emergency order does not affect the state subsistence community harvest hunt in GMU 13 or federal subsistence hunts. Additional harvest in GMU 13 is expected to be negligible.

The harvest objective for the Nelchina caribou herd for 2011-2012 is 2,400. To date, a total of 2,357 caribou (650 cows, 1,705 bulls, 2 unk) have been reported taken during the state tier I (1,603), community subsistence harvest (82), drawing (311), and all federal subsistence hunting seasons combined (361). The total harvest is expected to reach the harvest quota by Saturday.

The majority of caribou have moved out of GMU 13 for the winter, except for small resident groups scattered across the unit. Large numbers of Nelchina caribou have moved into the Tetlin Flats in GMU 12 and the Taylor Highway area of GMU 20E. Some additional harvest of Nelchina caribou is expected under federal subsistence hunting regulations in those areas. All federal hunters are encouraged to take bulls only for the remainder of the season.

The final 2011 Nelchina caribou herd population estimate was 40,233, prior to harvest. If the total harvest quota for 2011-2012 is met, the herd is expected to return to the management objective of 35,000– 40,000. Nelchina caribou hunters with community subsistence permits are encouraged to keep checking the caribou hotline (267-2304) prior to hunting for further information and possibly an Emergency Closure.