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Department of
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STATE OF ALASKA

PRESS RELEASE

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Lynx Trapping Closures on Kenai Peninsula and Unit 14C Extended Through 2019-2020 Season

(SOLDOTNA) – The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has announced the lynx trapping season in Game Management Units 7 and 15 on the Kenai Peninsula will remain closed for the 2019-2020 trapping year. A hunting season is scheduled to open in Units 7 and 15 from January 1 through February 15, 2020. In Unit 14C, hunting and trapping seasons for lynx will remain closed.

Lynx trapping seasons in Units 7, 14C, and 15 are managed using a harvest tracking strategy. When snowshoe hare populations (the major food source for lynx) are low, trapping seasons are closed. As snowshoe hare populations increase, so do lynx numbers and trapping is allowed to resume. Snowshoe hare populations eventually peak and then decline. Lynx populations follow a similar pattern, lagging behind their food source by a few years. Currently, the hare cycle is at a point that justifies lynx hunting opportunities in Units 7 and 15, but remains below a threshold where trapping will be reopened.

This emergency order applies to all lands (state, federal, and private) currently open to trapping on the Kenai Peninsula and Unit 14C.

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