

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 04-12-21

Issued at: Glennallen, Alaska
October 12, 2021

Effective Date: 11:59 a.m.
Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m.
June 30, 2022 unless superseded
by subsequent emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the winter seasons for Nelchina caribou state Tier I registration (RC561 and RC562), community subsistence harvest (CC001), and drawing (DC485) hunts within Game Management Unit 13. The harvestable surplus available for these hunts has been met for the 2021–22 hunting season, and the majority of the Nelchina herd has migrated out of Unit 13. Closure of winter hunts will protect small, localized groups remaining in Unit 13 from overharvest. This emergency order does not affect any other caribou hunting regulations in Unit 13.

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Therefore, the provisions of **5AAC 85.025 (a) (8), Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Caribou**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective: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>Aug. 10–Sept. 20</u> (Subsistence Hunt only)	No open season

...

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

Aug. 10–Aug. 17
(Subsistence Hunt only)

No open season

...

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

Sept. 1–Sept. 9
(Subsistence Hunt only)

No open season

...

1 caribou every regulatory year by drawing permit only; or

Aug. 20–Aug. 31

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:

To maintain the population objective of 35,000–40,000 Nelchina caribou, harvest quotas are modified annually. The harvest quota for the Nelchina caribou herd for the 2021–2022 season is 1,600 caribou. The department believes that harvest of approximately 1,250 caribou from the state hunts and additional federal harvest can be taken sustainably while allowing for modest growth and providing for subsistence opportunity. A preliminary harvest of 1,640 animals have been reported. The 2021–2022 harvestable surplus for state hunts was taken during the fall seasons. No additional harvest opportunity is available for these hunts during the winter season dates. Furthermore, the majority of the Nelchina herd has migrated out of Unit 13 and this closure for winter seasons will protect localized groups of caribou remaining in Unit 13 from overharvest.

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 - Regional Supervisors
 - Area Wildlife Biologists: Regions II, III, IV
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9. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Regional Director, Anchorage
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