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## Advisory Announcement

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### 2022 Nelchina Caribou Hunt Quotas and Bag Limits Announced

(Glennallen) – Nelchina caribou permit holders for Game Management Unit 13 will be able to harvest a bull caribou this hunting season. Permits were printed with bag limits “to be announced,” pending summer census results in July 2022. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is announcing the bag limit of one bull caribou for all Unit 13 state-managed resident caribou hunts (RC561, RC562, CC001, DC485, and YC495). There is no nonresident draw hunt (DC475) this year.

In recent years the size of the Nelchina caribou herd has been above objectives, affording extra harvest opportunity to reduce the herd to within population objectives. This year, severe winter conditions and late spring thaw resulted in higher-than-normal adult mortality and low recruitment of calves into the population. Spring migration and calving occurred late, and a small portion of the herd did not return from the wintering grounds. Furthermore, production and survival of this spring’s calf crop is low. These factors combine to reduce the Nelchina caribou herd to an estimated 21,000 caribou. As a result, available harvest is lower than in recent years, as the goal is now focused on growing the herd. The fall quotas and expected harvest below reflect the Board of Game direction to distribute hunter opportunity and harvest for this important caribou herd.

The youth caribou hunt (YC495) will take place as scheduled with a bag limit of one bull. The expected harvest/quotas which the Board of Game has designated for Nelchina caribou harvest for each hunt is listed below:

Hunt	Number of 2022 Permits	2022 Fall Quota
YC495	200	70 <sup>a</sup>
DC475	-	-
DC485	499	70
RC561	2,449	140
RC562	2,839	140
CC001	903	195
		615 <sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> The season for YC495 will run August 1–5 and the harvest is expected to be 70 bulls.

<sup>b</sup> This does not reflect an expected harvest of nearly 400 animals in the federal hunts.

The fall quotas for RC561 and RC562 are likely to be achieved in less than 7 days and seasons are likely to be closed by Emergency Order. The quota for DC485 is also likely to be reached before the end of the regularly

scheduled season. A reassessment of quotas will take place after the fall hunts close and composition surveys are completed in early October. It is likely that no winter seasons will open. Hunt updates and additional information will be available on the Nelchina hotline at (907) 267-2304.