



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
 Bureau of Land Management
 National Park Service
 Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
 Anchorage, AK 99503-6199



Forest Service

Portion of Unit 12 Closed to the Harvest of the Chisana Caribou Herd

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
 50 CFR 100.10 and .19

Emergency Special Action No 12-CCH-01-22 Issued at: Copper Center, AK, July 22, 2022

Effective Date: 12:01 a.m. Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, September 30, 2022, unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION: This Emergency Special Action sets a harvest quota of zero and closes a portion of Unit 12 to the harvest of caribou for the 2022 season. The closure is for the purposes of conserving the population of the Chisana Caribou Herd, and the closed area is that portion of the unit that lies east of the Nabesna River and Glacier and south of the Winter Trail.

REGULATION: 36 CFR §242.26 and 50 CFR §100.26 are temporarily modified to read:

Unit 12—Caribou

<p>Unit 12, that portion east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier and south of the Winter Trail running southeast from Pickerel Lake to the Canadian border —1 bull by Federal registration permit (FC1205) only.</p>	<p>No Federal Open Season</p>
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JUSTIFICATION:

The Federal subsistence harvest of the Chisana Caribou Herd in a portion of Unit 12 is managed consistent with the 2012 *Management Plan for the Chisana Caribou Herd*. The management objectives for the herd focus on population indicators rather than a target herd size. Specific indicators used to determine whether harvest is sustainable are sex ratio and calf recruitment. If the population indicators fall below the set thresholds of a minimum sex ratio of 35 bulls to 100 cows and average three-year recruitment of 15 calves per 100 cows, the plan states that harvest will cease, and the management authorities will meet to discuss management options.

On June 9, 2022, representatives from the National Park Service (Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve), the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge), and Yukon Department of Environment met to discuss the 2022 harvest of the herd in light of the fact that the most recent three-year rolling average

recruitment had fallen to 14 calves per 100 cows, which is below the minimum threshold identified in the management plan for sustainable harvest. After a robust discussion, the group agreed that the plan should be followed and that no harvest should take place in 2022. Consequently, the Wrangell-St. Elias Superintendent, under authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board, is issuing this Emergency Special Action to set the 2022 harvest quota at zero and close the hunt for the 2022 season in order to conserve caribou populations. A population census is planned for October 2022, after which the management authorities will meet to discuss the results and make recommendations about whether to re-open harvest for the 2023 season.

In addition to the discussion with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, and Yukon Environment described above, the National Park Service staff consulted with the Chairs of the Eastern Interior and Southcentral Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils prior to issuing this Emergency Special Action.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to:



Ben Bobowski
Superintendent
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve
July 22, 2022

DISTRIBUTION:

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Anthony Christianson, Chair, Federal Subsistence Board; Eastern Interior Alaska RAC; Southcentral Alaska RAC; Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission; Jeff Gross and Jeff Wells, ADF&G Wildlife Conservation Division, Tok; Lincoln Parrett, ADF&G Wildlife Conservation Division, Fairbanks; Shawn Bayless and Tim Lorenzini, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, US Fish and Wildlife Service; Sue Detwiler, Jessica Gill; Lisa Grediagin, Brooke McDavid, Kayla McKinney, George Pappas, and Katerina Wessels, Office of Subsistence Management; Eva Patton, National Park Service, Alaska Regional Office; Alaska Public Safety Department-Fish & Wildlife Protection Division; and Ben Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, ADF&G.