

Date: December 16, 2021

To: Greg Encelewski, Southcentral Regional Advisory Council Chair
Subject: **Chugach National Forest update for Southcentral Regional Advisory Council; February 10-11, 2021**

Staff

Deyna Kuntzsch – Forest Resources & Planning Staff Officer; Anchorage
Bret Christensen – Forest Wildlife Biologist; Anchorage
Milo Burcham – Subsistence Program Manager/Wildlife Biologist; Cordova
Heather Thamm –Kenai Peninsula Zone Biological Science Technician; Moose Pass
Steve Namitz – District Ranger, In-season manager; Cordova
Francisco Sanchez (retiring) – District Ranger, In-season manager; Moose Pass
Andy Morse – Chugach NF Law Enforcement Officer, Cordova
Jordan Rymer - Chugach NF Law Enforcement Officer, Moose Pass

Special actions

No special actions were approved in 2020/21

Cost Share with Alaska Department of Fish and Game

The Chugach National Forest Subsistence Program is continuing to support wildlife surveys for moose, caribou, and mountain goats in Units 6 and 7 through a cost share agreement with ADFG. This continues ongoing cooperative monitoring projects.

Prince William Sound Zone

Moose

Season opened September 1
1,105 applications received for 70 moose permits
35 bull permits and 35 antlerless permits issued for Unit 6C in 2021
Bull season still open. Final harvest numbers not yet available.

Deer

Season opened August 1 and runs through December for 5 deer and through January for 1 buck in Unit 6.
Early indicators are that this could be a hard winter for deer in Prince William Sound.

Black Bear

Work has continued with ADFG on the cooperative Prince William Sound Black Bear project. This summer and fall we retrieved dropped collars from bears captured in 2017 and the last



batch of active collars which were deployed in 2018. We have recovered data from those collars and are working with an ADFG biometrician to begin data analysis and publish early results.

Salmon

The Copper River Delta fishery is ongoing and harvest reports are not due until December 31

Kenai Peninsula Zone

Moose/Caribou

Due to COVID-19 concerns the Forest did not hold the annual town meetings in Hope and Cooper Landing to issue hunting permits. All subsistence hunters who were issued permits in 2019/20 were contacted.

Unit 7 – Moose (Closed Sept. 20)

Permits – 54 issued (19-Hope, 34-Cooper Landing)

24 people hunted

1 Moose harvested

Unit 7 – Caribou (Open until Dec.31)

No caribou harvested as of December 16

Mountain Goat

The drawing for Unit 7 Federal subsistence Mountain Goat permits was held in March.

Twenty-eight applications were received, and three hunters were drawn (2- Cooper Landing, 1- Hope). The season opened August 10 and closed November 14.

One male goat harvested

Salmon

Harvest data not yet available

Personnel updates.

Francisco Sanchez, Seward District Ranger and in-season manager for Unit 7, will retire at the end of December 2021. Stormy Haught has joined the Chugach as the Prince William Sound Zone Aquatics program lead and will be assisting with fisheries-related subsistence issues.

For Questions: please contact Milo Burcham; milo.burcham@usda.gov; 907-429-5878