Fall Opening of Mulchatna Caribou Herd Season

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

Emergency Special Action No: 20-MCH-01 Issued at: Dillingham, Alaska 7/24/2020

Effective Date: 12:00 a.m. Saturday, August 1, 2020
Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 20, 2020 unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION: This Emergency Special Action authorizes Federally Qualified Rural Residents within the Mulchatna caribou herd range 1 bull caribou from Saturday, August 1, 2020 to Sunday, September 20, 2020. Participation in the season is limited to Federally qualified subsistence users from GMU’s 9A, 9B, 9C, 17A, 17B, 17C, 18, 19A and 19B. Hunters are required to have a current hunting license and an Alaska Department of Fish and Game issued registration caribou permit (RC503), which has a 5 day mandatory reporting requirement if an animal is harvested/or 15 days after the close of the season if the hunter was unsuccessful.

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

Unit 9 - Caribou

- Unit 9A - 1 BULL caribou by State registration permit 20.
- Unit 9B - 1 BULL caribou by State registration permit 20.
- Unit 9C - that portion within the Alagnak River drainage 20 - 1 BULL caribou by State registration permit
- Unit 9C - that portion draining into the Naknek River from 20. 1 BULL caribou by State registration permit.
  - The north, and Graveyard Creek and Coffee Creek

Public lands are closed to the taking of caribou except by residents of Unit 9C and Egegik
Unit 17 - Caribou

- Unit 17A - All drainages west of Right Hand Point - 1 BULL caribou by State registration permit Aug. 1 – Sept. 20

- Units 17B and 17C - That portion of 17C east of the Wood River and Wood River Lakes - 1 BULL caribou by State registration permit Aug. 1 – Sept. 20

Unit 18 - Caribou

- Unit 18 - that portion to the east and south of the Kuskokwim River - 1 BULL caribou by State registration permit Aug. 1 – Sept. 20

- Unit 18, remainder - 1 Bull caribou by State registration permit Aug. 1 – Sept. 20

Unit 19 - Caribou

- Units 19A and 19B (excluding rural Alaska residents of Lime Village) - 1 BULL caribou by State registration permit Aug. 1 – Sept.20

JUSTIFICATION:

The summer 2020 population estimate of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd is roughly 13,500, which is approximately half of the estimated herd size from the previous five years and similar to the 2019 estimate. This is well below the Alaska Department of Fish and Game’s minimum population objective of 30,000. As a result of this decline, conservation measures were implemented during the 2019-2020 season including an early closure of the season by both State and Federal managers. In anticipation of future management action for addressing timely management actions, the Federal Subsistence Board delegated in-season management authority to the Togiak Refuge Manager for the 2020-2022 hunting seasons.

Since receiving management authority, the Togiak Refuge staff, working with staff from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, determined a minimal number of bulls can be harvested. All cow harvest, however, must be avoided to allow for herd growth.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to: Kenton Moos
Refuge Manager
Togiak NWR, Dillingham, AK
July 23, 2020
Federal Subsistence Board
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, AK 99503-6199

DISTRIBUTION:

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS
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