

To: Greg Encelewski, Southcentral Regional Advisory Council Chair

Subject: **Chugach National Forest update for Southcentral Regional Advisory Council; Fall 2024**

### **Staff**

**Carey Case** – Acting Forest Resources & Planning Staff Officer; Anchorage

**Andrew Sanders** – Forest Subsistence Biologist; Cordova

**Dan Schmalzer** –Prince William Sound Zone Subsistence Technician; Cordova

**Heather Thamm** –Kenai Peninsula Zone Subsistence Biologist; Moose Pass

**Steve Namitz** – District Ranger, In-season manager; Cordova

**Ruth DAmico** – 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**

None

### **Cost Share with Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

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

### **Cost Share with Chugach Regional Resources Commission (CRRC)**

The Chugach National Forest Subsistence Program continues to work with CRRC to perform surveys for fish and wildlife populations important to subsistence users in CRRC member communities within the exterior boundaries of the CNF (Chenega, Tatitlek, and Cordova) through an ANILCA cost share agreement.

## **Prince William Sound Zone**

### **6C Moose**

Season: September 1- October 31 (antlerless) / December 31 (Bulls)

847 applications received for 44 moose permits

24 bull permits and 20 antlerless permits issued for Unit 6C in 2024

- Public meeting held 15AUG to issue tags and provide information
- In 2023 878 applications were received for 44 permits
  - 22/24 bulls harvested
  - 19/20 antlerless harvested

### **Deer**

Season: August 1 - January 31. In Unit 6, 5 deer may be taken, but only 1 can be harvested in January. Does may be taken between October 1 and January 31. Winter conditions were cold

and snowy. Pellet surveys in the spring suggested that the PWS deer population suffered low-moderate winter mortality and are at moderate density levels.

### **Black Bear**

Work has continued with ADF&G on the cooperative Prince William Sound Black Bear project. ADF&G and the Forest Service are currently analyzing data and completing reports. Tissue samples are analyzed for stable isotope content to determine each bear's food sources.

### **Unit 6D Mountain Goat:**

- Season: Aug.20 – Feb. 28
- 1 permit issued as of 08/19/2024
  - In 2023 3 permits were issued and 1 goat was harvested.

### **Salmon**

- Freshwaters of the Chugach NF, outside the Copper River
  - 100 permits issued as of 8/19/2024
  - In 2023 102 permits were issued
    - 324 Coho were harvested (439)
    - 43 Sockeye were harvested (43)
    - (2 Dolly Varden)
- Lower Copper River Dipnet Fishery
  - 80 permits issued as of 8/19/2024
  - Harvest data is due January 15, 2025, and still awaiting final numbers.
  - In 2022 71 permits were issued
    - See NPS agency report for harvest data

### **Kenai Peninsula Zone**

Five community meetings were held from May through early August to issue fishing and hunting permits in person to residents of Cooper Landing, Moose Pass, and Hope.

- May 16<sup>th</sup> –Fish permit meeting in Hope at Bear Creek Lodge
- May 21<sup>st</sup> – Fish permit meeting in Moose Pass at Estes Brothers Grocery
- June 8<sup>th</sup> – Fish Permit Booth at Cooper Landing Softball Tournament
- July 30<sup>th</sup> - Hunting permit meeting in Hope at Bear Creek Lodge
- August 1<sup>st</sup> – Hunting permit meeting at the Cooper Landing Community Center
- August 5<sup>th</sup> - Hunting permit meeting at Moose Pass Community Center

### **Unit 7 Dall Sheep:**

- Season: Aug.10 – Sept.20
- 1 permit was issued by drawing

- The Chugach National Forest has been collaborating with the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge to study Dall Sheep habitat and populations in unit 7 and the impacts of the 2019 Swan Lake Fire.

#### **Unit 7 Moose:**

- Season: Aug.20 – Sept. 25
- 35 permits issued for FM1505 Moose, as of 8/16/2024
- 62 permits issued for FM0004 Moose, as of 8/16/2024
- 81 permits were issued
  - In 2023 81 permits were issued and 7 moose were harvested

#### **Unit 7 Caribou:**

- Season: Aug.10 – Dec.31
- 33 of permits were issued as of 8/16/2024.
  - In 2023 54 permits were issued and 0 caribou was harvested.

#### **Unit 7 Mountain Goat:**

- Season: Aug.10 – Nov. 14
- The Federal subsistence Mountain Goat drawing for Unit 7 was held on April 1st, 2024. Applicants consisted of 28 residents from Cooper Landing, Hope, Ninilchik and Moose Pass. 3 draw permits were issued.
  - DG339 (Grant Lake)
  - DG338 (Crescent Mountain)
  - DG334 (Mills Creek)

#### **Salmon**

- Public meetings were held in Hope, Cooper Landing and Moose Pass prior to the beginning of the Russian River dipnet season. 284 permits were issued to residents of these communities. 58 permits were issued to residents of Moose Pass. Harvest is tracked by the USFWS. 222 permits were issued to those communities in 2023.