



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

### 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

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**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Expiration Date 11:59 p.m. Sunday, September 20, 2020 unless superseded by subsequent special action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. Aug. 1 – Sept.**
- **Unit 9B - 1 BULL caribou by State registration permit 20. Aug. 1 – Sept.**
- **Unit 9C - that portion within the Alagnak River drainage 20 - 1 BULL caribou by State registration permit Aug. 1 – Sept**
- **Unit 9C- that portion draining into the Naknek River from 20. 1 BULL caribou by State registration permit. Aug. 1 – Sept.**
  - *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:

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Kenton Moos  
Refuge Manger  
Togiak NWR, Dillingham, AK  
July 23, 2020



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**DISTRIBUTION:**

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### **GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Anthony Christianson, Chair, Federal Subsistence Board; Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council; Western Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council; Yukon Kuskokwim Delta Subsistence Regional Advisory Council; Gino DelFrate ADF&G Wildlife Conservation Division-Anchorage; Boyd Blihovde, USFWS; Susan Alexander, USFWS; Bonnie Million, BLM, Anchorage; Susanne Fleek-Green, UPS, Lake Clark; Mark Sturm, NSP, King Salmon; Sue Detwiler, Lisa Maas, Caron McKee, Eva Patton, Donald Mike, Karen Deatherage and George Pappas, Office of Subsistence Management; Alaska Public Safety Department-Fish & Wildlife Protection Division, Ben Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, Alaska Department of Fish and Game.