



Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503



FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOREST SERVICE

UNIT 2 FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE WOLF HUNTING AND TRAPPING SEASONS SET

EMERGENCY TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION: FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

Under authority of: 36 CFR §242.10 and .19
50 CFR §100.10 and .19

Emergency Temporary Special Action No: 13-WO-08-19
Issued at: Craig Alaska, October 29, 2019

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, January 15, 2020
Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, 2020 unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Temporary Special Action sets the closing date of the Federal hunting and trapping seasons for wolf in Unit 2 to start at 11:59 p.m., on Wednesday, January 15, 2020.

REGULATION: 36 CFR §242.26(n)(2) and 50 CFR §100.26(n)(2) are amended to read:

Unit 2– Wolf (hunting)

5 wolves. Any wolf taken in Unit 2 must be sealed within 30 days of the end of the season. *Sept. 1 –~~March~~
~~31~~Jan. 15*

Unit 2 – Wolf (trapping)

No limit. Any wolf taken in Unit 2 must be sealed within 30 days of the end of the season. *Nov. 15 –~~March~~
~~31~~Jan. 15*

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to /s/ Scot Shuler

Scot Shuler
District Ranger
Craig Ranger District
October 29, 2019

JUSTIFICATION:

Prior to 2019, management of wolf harvest in Unit 2 was based on a harvest quota and in-season harvest monitoring. This strategy resulted in unpredictable and often short trapping seasons. Trappers noted that this strategy limited their flexibility to plan their trapping effort and at times forced them to go out in unfavorable weather conditions to close their trap lines in compliance with emergency orders/special actions.

In response to these shortcomings, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, the USDA Forest Service, Fish and Game Advisory Committees, the Alaska Board of Game, the Southeast Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (SEASRAC), and subsistence users worked to develop a new strategy that would provide trappers with the flexibility and responsibility they desired while sustainably managing the harvest of wolves in Unit 2.

At their January 2019 meeting in Petersburg, the Alaska Board of Game altered wolf harvest regulations to implement this strategy which established a Unit 2 population objective of 150-200 wolves and aligned the opening date for the State trapping season with the current November 15 opening date of the Federal trapping season. The Alaska Board of Game also endorsed ADF&G's harvest management plan, which listed the following trapping season lengths based on the most recent Unit 2 wolf population estimate.

- Zone 1 (population estimate is less than 100 wolves) – seasons are closed until the wolf population recovers.
- Zone 2 (population estimate between 100-149 wolves) – season length of up to six weeks to provide limited harvest opportunity while allowing ability for population to recover back to population goal.
- Zone 3 (population estimate between 150-200 wolves) – season length of up to eight weeks.
- Zone 4 (population estimate exceeds 200 – season length of up to 4 months.

In March of 2019, the SEASRAC submitted Temporary Wildlife Special Action Request WSA19-02, requesting extension of the sealing period for wolf hunting and trapping to within 30 days of the end of the season and removal of language referencing a combined Federal-State harvest quota for wolves in Unit 2. A public meeting was held on June 25, 2019 in Klawock, Alaska. Four people testified in support of the temporary special action. In August of 2019, the Federal Subsistence Board approved Temporary Special Action request WSA19-02. This Federal Subsistence Board action facilitated coordinated management of wolves using the new harvest strategy.

The most recent population estimate for Unit 2 is 170 wolves which allows for a two month season. The season closure date for the Unit 2 Federal wolf hunting and trapping seasons will be January 15, 2020.

Authority has been delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board to the Craig District Ranger to close, re-open or adjust the Federal hunting and trapping seasons for wolf in Unit 2.

DISTRIBUTION:

RADIO

KBRD Radio; KCAW Radio; KRSA Radio

NEWSPAPERS

Ketchikan Daily News; Island News; Sitka Sentinel; Juneau Empire

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Don Hernandez, Chair, Southeast Alaska Regional Advisory Council; ADF&G Wildlife Divisions-Ketchikan; William Elsner, Patrol Captain, USFS-Ketchikan; Andrew Sanford, LEO, USFS-Thorne Bay; Paul Robbins Jr., Public Affairs, USFS-Ketchikan; Terry Suminski, Tongass Subsistence Program Leader, USFS-Sitka; Deanna Perry, Council Coordinator, USFS – Petersburg; Thomas Whitford, Regional Subsistence Program Leader, USFS – Anchorage; Chris McKee, Wildlife Division Chief, USFWS/OSM—Anchorage; Theo Matuskowitz, Regulations Specialist, USFWS/OSM—Anchorage; Caron McKee, Public Affairs, USFWS/OSM—Anchorage; Alaska Public Safety Department-Fish & Wildlife Protection Division, Ketchikan & Craig; Craig Tribal Association; Klawock Cooperative Association; Hydaburg Cooperative Association; Organized Village of Kasaan.