



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

WOLF HUNTING SEASON DELAYED IN UNIT 2

EMERGENCY SPECIAL ACTION: FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

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

Emergency Special Action No: WSA20-08
Issued at: Craig Alaska, August 14, 2020

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, August 31, 2020
Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, October 30, 2020 unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

This Emergency Special Action delays the start of the Unit 2 wolf hunting season until October 31.

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

Unit 2 –Wolf Hunting

No limit.

~~Sep-1~~ Oct. 31-Mar. 31.

Any wolf taken in Unit 2 must be sealed within 30 days of the end of the season.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to /s/Scot Shuler
Scot Shuler
District Ranger
Craig and Thorne Bay Ranger Districts
August 14, 2020

JUSTIFICATION:

An Emergency Wildlife Special Action Request was received from Alaskans FOR Wildlife and requested changing the opening date of the wolf hunting season in Unit 2 from Sept. 1 to Nov. 1. The proponent requests delaying the opening of the Unit 2 wolf hunting season to allow time for the 2019 population estimate to become available. The proponent understands this estimate should be available prior to the start of the State and Federal trapping seasons, and believes that any wolf harvest should be prohibited until such information is available to inform sound management decisions.

From 2015-2019, the Unit 2 wolf population estimates have become available between late August and early October, depending on the year. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) expected that the lab analyzing the DNA samples would submit their results to ADF&G by July 2020; however social distancing practices delayed their work. Therefore, ADF&G does not expect to have a population estimate before mid-late September.

The new harvest management strategy adopted by the Federal Subsistence Board and the Alaska Board of Game relies on population estimates to set season lengths. If the population estimate is below 100 wolves, no season will be announced. The Covid 19 virus has led to delays in processing the genetic samples used to produce the population estimate. Lack of a population estimate requires a cautious approach to wolf management given the high wolf harvest in 2019. While this closure will impact subsistence users, historically very few wolves are harvested during this time. Once the population estimate is available and harvest is determined to be allowed under the plan, the season may reopen before October 31 through subsequent special action.

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; Deyna Kuntzsch, Regional Subsistence Program Leader, USFS – Anchorage; Lisa Maas, Acting Policy Coordinator, 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.