



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Contact: Kenton Moos
(907) 842-1063 or 1-800-817-2538
kenton_moos@fws.gov

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REMINDER: MULCHATNA CARIBOU SEASONS IS CLOSED ON FEDERAL PUBLIC LANDS THROUGHOUT RANGE OF THE MULCHATNA CARIBOU HERD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE SEASON

The Togiak National Wildlife Refuge Manager, under authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board, has closed the caribou season, on Federal public lands until further notice. The closure will remain in effect in the following areas:

Units 9A, 9B, Units 9A, 9B, also Unit 9C, that portion within the Alagnak River drainage and DAL is only for portions of Units 17A and 17C – specifically: Unit 17A-all drainages west of Right Hand Point and 17C-that portion of 17C east of the Wood River and Wood River Lakes, 18, 19A, and 19B.

Justification:

The summer 2020 population estimate of the Mulchatna Caribou Herd is approximately 13,500 which is about half of the estimated herd size from 2014-2018, and similar to the 2019 estimate. This population estimate 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. Togiak Refuge staff and Federal managers, working with staff from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, have determined there is no harvestable surplus that would allow herd growth. Thus, in the interest of allowing herd recovery, no harvest is warranted the remainder of this season. The federal in-season manager consulted with and has concurrence from affected Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils and other federal land managers.

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