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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: October 16, 2020

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Nelchina Caribou Quotas for Winter Hunts

(Glennallen) – The fall composition survey for the Nelchina caribou herd indicates low calf survival through the spring and early summer. With the loss of calves, overall herd abundance is near the lower end of the fall population objective of 35,000–40,000 caribou. The fall population estimate includes excess adults that remain available for harvest, especially adult cows.

Caribou population objectives are based on the number of animals a given range can sustainably support, but large fluctuations in productivity and survival of calves can result in seemingly large swings in herd size when the abundance of adults in the herd remains more stable. There is a harvestable surplus of adult cows in the herd and reducing the number of cows during the winter hunt will maintain a healthy herd size and reduce nutritional demands on the range.

Hunters are encouraged to harvest cows unaccompanied by calves when possible. The winter season (October 21–March 31) hunt quotas for those who have yet to fill their permit are as follows:

| Hunt | Winter Quota |
|-----------------------|--------------|
| CC001 | 200 |
| DC485 | 200 |
| RC561/562 combined | 700 |

If you have submitted your CC001, DC485, or RC561/562 permit as unsuccessful you may visit any ADF&G office to have it reissued. Successful hunters can provide wildlife managers the information they need to closely track in-season harvest by filing hunt reports online at hunt.alaska.gov, by phone at (907) 822-3461, or in person at the Glennallen or Palmer Fish and Game offices. Hunters are reminded that hunts will be closed by emergency order when quotas are reached.

For hunt updates and additional information call the Nelchina Hotline at (907) 267-2304 or contact the Glennallen ADF&G office at (907) 822-3461.

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