

**File Code:** 1920

**Date:** February 13, 2023

To: Greg Encelewski, Southcentral Regional Advisory Council Chair

Subject: **Chugach National Forest update for Southcentral Regional Advisory Council; March 15-16, 2023**

### **Staff**

Deyna Kuntzsch – Forest Resources & Planning Staff Officer; Anchorage

Becky Jones (Temporary) – Forest Wildlife Biologist; Girdwood

David Pearson (Temporary) – Subsistence Program Manager; Moose Pass

Heather Thamm –Kenai Peninsula Zone Biological Science Technician; Moose Pass

Steve Namitz – District Ranger, In-season manager; Cordova

Ruth DAmico – District Ranger, In-season manager; Moose Pass

Andy Morse – Chugach NF Law Enforcement Officer, Cordova

Jordan Rymer - Chugach NF Law Enforcement Officer, Moose Pass

### **Special actions**

No special actions since last report.

### **Cost Share with Alaska Department of Fish and Game**

The Chugach National Forest Subsistence Program is continuing to support wildlife surveys for moose, caribou, and mountain goats in Units 6 and 7 through a cost share agreement with ADFG. This continues ongoing cooperative monitoring projects.

### **Prince William Sound Zone**

#### **Moose 6C**

The 2022 Season opened September 1.

Approximately 764 applications received for 60 moose permits

Bull moose season concluded on October 31st with 25 out of 30 bulls harvested.

Cow moose season concluded on December 31st with 29 out of 30 antlerless moose harvested.

The Forest Service received 878 applications for the 2023 Unit 6C moose drawing.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) conducted aerial composition surveys for moose in unit 6C in early December 2022 using funds from the Chugach National Forest. A total of 240 moose were observed. Twenty of these moose were bulls, 189 were cows, and 31 were calves. Using these numbers, 11 Bulls: 100 Cows (B:C) and 16 calves: 100 Cows (c:C) were observed. Statistical analysis found a bull to cow ratio of 1:14 and a calf to cow ratio of 5:33 at a 90% Confidence Interval. Earlier than predicted antler casting may have affected the quality of this survey data for the bull to cow estimate. (ADF&G 2023)



**Sitka Black-tailed Deer**

Sitka Black-tailed deer season concluded on January 31st, 2023. No harvest data is currently available.

**Mountain Goat**

The Mountain Goat season for unit 6D concludes on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**Salmon**

71 permits were issued for the Prince William Sound area freshwater fishery. Currently, there is poor harvest report returns and a reminder letter has been sent to subsistence users. Thus far 93 Coho and 70 Sockeye have been reported harvested under this fishery.

**Kenai Peninsula Zone****Caribou**

The Unit 7 Caribou season concluded on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022. One caribou was harvested this season with a total of 74 permits issued.

**Mountain Goat**

The Unit 7 subsistence Mountain Goat season concluded on November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Three drawing permits were issued, one Mountain Goat was harvested.

**Important Upcoming Dates**

Unit 6C Moose Drawing Results: 3rd Week of February

Unit 7 Mountain Goat drawing application period: March 1st-31st

Unit 7 Mountain Goat Drawing: Winners will be contacted beginning April 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Personnel updates**

The Forest Service Subsistence Program Manager, Milo Burcham, retired in the summer of 2022. David Pearson is temporarily fulfilling this role. This position is expected to be filled this spring. Additionally, a fulltime Subsistence Biological Technician position working in Cordova is also expected to start this spring.

**For Questions:** Please contact David Pearson; david.pearson2@usda.gov; 907-288-7716

**Citations**

Westing, C. 2023. Wildlife Biologist. Personal communication: e-mail. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Cordova, AK.