



****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

Date: August 24, 2020
To: All Northwest Arctic Borough and City of Kotzebue Residents
From: Northwest Arctic Borough and City of Kotzebue

STATEMENT ON REGULATION OF GAME MANAGEMENT AND HUNTING

Hunting seasons on state and private lands are regulated exclusively by the Alaska Board of Game (BoG). The Department of Fish and Game implements the BoG's regulations by issuing hunting licenses and permits. State of Alaska residents and non-Alaska-residents may hunt on state and private land (subject to landowner permission) whenever a season is open according to Board regulations. Boroughs and cities have no authority to close hunting seasons or regulate hunting on state and private lands in a way that conflicts with BoG regulations. The hunting seasons may only be closed by emergency regulations adopted by the BoG.

Hunting seasons on certain federal lands are regulated by the Federal Subsistence Board (FSB). Whenever the FSB determines that a non-rural Alaska community has customarily and traditionally hunted wildlife for subsistence, the FSB's regulations provide a priority for federally-qualified resident hunters on federal lands near that community. Boroughs, cities, and the State have no authority to close hunting seasons that are open according to FSB regulations. Additionally, the FSB has no authority to close federal lands to the public, including non-federally qualified users.

Our resources are important to all. Lands within the Northwest Arctic Borough are diverse in nature and fall under different management regulations. Landowners include state, federal, and private entities with differing rules and mandates. All hunters coming into the Borough boundaries must follow local emergency health mandates and show respect when arriving. For updated local mandates in each community, please visit our COVID-19 page at: <https://www.nwabor.org/village-travel-restrictions/>

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For specific questions about land status and management, please contact the appropriate entity:

Alaska Department of Fish & Game: 907-442-3420
Alaska Department of Natural Resources: 907-269-8400
Bureau of Land Management: 907-443-2177
Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation: 907-442-3165
NANA Regional Corporation: 907-442-3301
Selawik National Wildlife Refuge: 907-442-3799
Western Arctic National Parklands: 907-442-3890