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Unit 19A Predator Control Program Closed

Hunting and Trapping of Wolves Also Closed

Due to the combined efforts of hunters, trappers, and control program permittees, the wolf population in Unit 19A has successfully been reduced to the desired level. As a result, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has closed the aerial predator control program in Unit 19A for this winter.

Wolf hunting and trapping in Unit 19A will also close on April 3, 2006.

“Weather conditions in March were good for trappers and people with wolf control permits,” said area biologist Roger Seavoy. “We anticipate that we will have reached the targeted take of wolves for the season.”

The predation control program implementation plan requires that 40-53 wolves remain in the unit. Surveys conducted in January and March indicated that approximately 114-120 wolves inhabited the area. A total of 62 wolves have been taken by a combination of hunting, trapping and control efforts since the surveys were completed. Staff

biologists anticipate that additional take by trappers and hunters by April 3 will result in the achievement of control objectives.

Suspension of the hunting and trapping seasons is necessary to assure that the wolf population is not reduced below the population goal.

“Efforts of wolf control permittees were critical to reducing the wolf population in Unit 19A,” Seavoy noted. “To be successful, permittees had to fly a lot of hours, at considerable cost of their own time and money. We could not have achieved the goal without their efforts.”

This is the second year of predator control in Unit 19A. The 19A program was approved in 2004 for a period of five years. Predator control programs are also being conducted in Unit 19D East near McGrath, in Units 12 & 20E near Tok, in parts of Unit 13 in the Nelchina Basin, and in Unit 16B in Southcentral Alaska.

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