

FOR RELEASE #09-037
February 26, 2009

General Bison Hunt Extended to March 31

WHITEHORSE – As recommended by the Wood Bison Management Team and the Technical Team, this winter's bison hunt has been extended to March 31 from February 28.

Cold weather, short days, overflow on large lakes and rivers, and deep snow reduced some of the hunting effort in December and January but considerable interest and hunting pressure by small hunting parties, as well as the school and community hunts, is expected for the rest of February and March.

The extension will apply to all bison hunt permit holders who have not been successful in taking a bison.

The terms and conditions that were in place at the start of the season, that all hunters report their successful hunt within 72 hours of the kill, and the regulations that prescribe the biological submission, game management subzones, rifle type and caliber, permit and tag fees, and the limit of one permit and one bison per licensed hunter - still apply.

Hunters must obtain permission from the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations to hunt on settlement lands. Their offices are at 304 Jarvis Street, Suite 100 ~ 668-3627 in Whitehorse and 1 Allen Street ~ 634-4235 in Haines Junction.

The Little Salmon / Carmacks First Nation has granted blanket permission, to the end of March, to all licensed wood bison hunters to access its Settlement Lands – no written permission needed.

It is anticipated that the hunt will be declared closed once the number of animals taken reaches 200. As of Wednesday, February 25, 70 bison had been taken by hunters.

For more information, visit Environment Yukon's website at www.environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca.

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