

# Bison hunt details announced

Details on four separate bison hunts in Alaska were announced last week by the Department of Fish and Game. Prospective bison hunters will have the option of either hunting the Copper River herd, east of Glennallen, or applying for a permit to hunt the Chitina herd, the Delta herd, or the herd at Farewell, near McGrath.

Fish and Game said 50 permits would be issued for the Delta herd, eight for the herd at Chitina and 15 for the Farewell herd.

The Copper River hunt is by registration, and the season there will be closed when the appropriate number of bison are taken. This number will be determined by aerial survey in July and will be made available for those registering for the hunt.

Permit applications will be available at Fish and Game offices statewide, and must be mailed to the Fish and Game office in Delta no later than August 16, 1976.

Bob Larson, Delta area biologist, said that a random drawing would be held on August 26 to determine who would receive permits.

The permit applications have spaces for applicants to mark the hunt they prefer and applicants may apply for only one hunt.

Larson said for the Delta hunt, applicants have the choice of requesting either the controlled or the unaccompanied hunt. A space is provided on the application to select either a bull or cow, and must be checked. 35 permits will be issued for the controlled hunt in which

the hunter will be accompanied by a biologist who will approve the selection of the animal to be taken. On the unaccompanied hunt, 15 persons will hunt without a biologist present.

He said in either case, alternates will be drawn in case some of the original 50 are unable to hunt.

The Farewell hunt will be conducted in the same manner, except that the 15 permittees will not be accompanied by the Fish and Game personnel.

Glennallen area biologist Carl McIlroy said for the Chitina herd 24 names would be drawn. The first three drawn would hunt during the first six-day period, the next three would hunt during the next six-day period, and so on until eight bison are taken.

In all of the hunts where Fish and Game personnel do not accompany the hunter, those hunting must check in and out at the appropriate Fish and Game office.

A new regulation passed by the Board of Fish and Game restricts bison hunters to certain corridors when traveling to and from the hunting area for the Copper River herd, McIlroy said. A map of the corridors will be available at the Glennallen and Anchorage offices for those who plan to hunt there.

He said—as in past years, the Copper River herd hunters will be required to carry a portable radio capable of tuning radio station KCAM in Glennallen on 790 Kilohertz. The radio station will announce the closing of the season when the previously

determined number of bison are taken.

Normally, a certain number of bison must annually be removed from Alaska's bison herds, McIlroy said, so they will not exceed the carrying capacity of their range and, in the case of the Delta herd, so they will not cause excessive crop depredations.

Alaska's wild bison herds originated from a transplant of 27 Montana bison in 1928 to the Delta area. From this nucleus herd, animals were transplanted to the areas where bison are found today. Fish and Game biologists responsible for managing the herds say all the herds are in healthy condition.