

2012 Hunting season on Fort Wainwright

Make back-up hunting plans

Hunting, fishing and other recreational activities are permitted on many of Fort Wainwright Training Areas providing those activities do not conflict with military training activities. The Fort Wainwright U.S. Army Recreation Tracking System (USARTRAK) has been established to facilitate public recreational access to the Fort Wainwright training lands. USARTRAK (www.USARTRAK.com) is designed to keep the public informed of training area closures, to issue Recreation Access Permits and to enable check-in to open training areas.

Army Alaska is anticipating extensive military training this fall. However, officials expect that most of the Tanana Flats Training Area (a portion of GMU 20A) will be open to hunting, excluding the already marked impact areas. At this time there are no projected air-operations training affecting a large portion of the Donnelly Training Area West (DTA-W), so it is expected to be open most of the season, but that could change. Additional areas in the southern portion of Donnelly Training Area East (DTA-E) below 12-Mile Crossing are expected to be open (portion of GMU 20D). Officials do expect training to occur in the Yukon Training Area this fall.

Hunters are encouraged to have back-up plans or other hunting locations. These openings could change as units continue to define their training requirements which are necessary for deployment. Range officials expect many of the units will have their requirements finalized by the end of July.

It is extremely important for everyone to recognize the locations of permanent impact areas. Permanent impact areas are highlighted on USARTRAK maps in red, and with black dotted lines in the current Department of Fish and Game hunting regulations; they are referred to as "military impact areas". Individuals must be cautious because at times there are certain areas closed which may be the only access to and from areas that are open for recreation and hunting.

As always, prior to accessing military training lands, all recreational users must register for a Recreational Access Pass (RAP). Registration can be done on the USARTRAK web site (www.USARTRAK.com/getRAP.asp), at the visitor's center at each installation, the Fort Wainwright Natural Resource Office (Bldg 3023) or the Donnelly Training Area Natural Resource Office in the hangar at Allen Army Airfield on Fort Greely. Once registered, recreational users can obtain information on training area closures and check in to open training areas through the USARTRAK web site or by calling the automated USARTRAK phone system (Toll Free 877-705-8725, Fairbanks: 907-353-3181, Delta Junction: 907-873-3181, Palmer 907-373-4637).