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NEWS

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Fortymile Caribou Season Closed on Steese and Taylor Highways

The State of Alaska fall hunting season for Fortymile caribou in areas accessible from the Steese Highway in Zone 1 and the Taylor Highway in Zone 3, will close after five days of hunting at 11:59 pm Friday night, September 2, 2011.

Three days into the hunt, hunters have taken about half of the quotas in Zones 1 and 3, and harvest remains steady. The quota for Zone 1 is 225 bulls, Zone 2 is 185 bulls, and Zone 3 is 340 bulls.

“Only moderate numbers of caribou were available, but hunters in both the Steese and Taylor Highway areas have had success and harvest has been constant since the August 29th opening. We expect the quota in both Zone 1 along the Steese and Zone 3 along the Taylor to be met by Friday night,” said Tok Area Biologist Jeff Gross.

Hunting for Fortymile caribou, regulated by joint state-federal registration permit hunt RC860, opened August 10th in Zone 2 and August 29th in Zones 1 & 3.

The State of Alaska hunt for Fortymile caribou will close in Zones 1 and 3 as shown on the map. Zone 1 includes lands accessible from the Steese Highway in Units 20B and 25C and Zone 3 includes lands accessible from the Taylor Highway in central and eastern Unit 20E.

State hunting seasons for Fortymile caribou remain open in Zone 2 (located in parts of Unit 20B, 20D north of the Tanana River, and western 20E). ADF&G staff are monitoring the hunt carefully to make sure the quota is not exceeded in Zone 2.

Federally-qualified subsistence hunters will be allowed to continue to hunt on federal land in the entire hunt area.

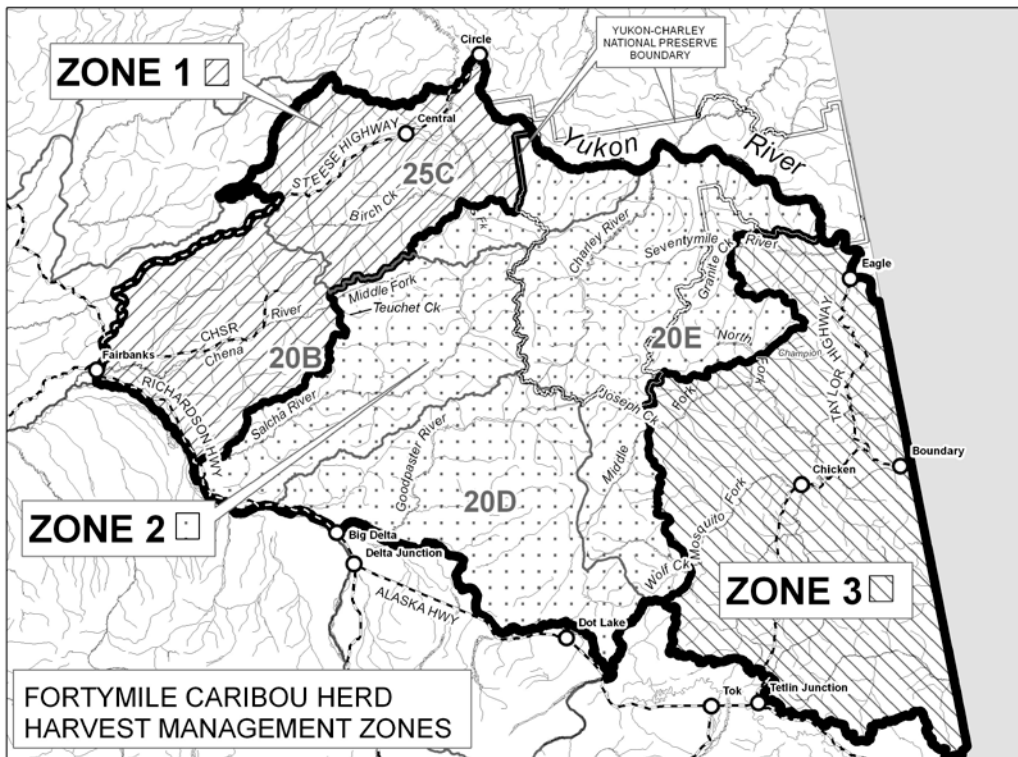
Hunters who have not taken a caribou will be able to continue to hunt in Zone 2. Successful hunters must report within three days of the kill on the internet at <http://hunt.alaska.gov>, or in person or by phone to the ADF&G office in Tok (883-2971). Hunters who report by phone must also mail their permit reports or drop them off to the Tok ADF&G office. Unsuccessful hunters must return their reports to the Tok office or report online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> by October 15.

Hunters are urged to obtain a receipt when they turn in their hunt reports or to mail them by delivery confirmation receipt. Permit holders who fail to report will not be allowed to obtain registration, drawing, or tier II permits next year, and may be cited for a violation of the Alaska hunting regulations.

The Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan guides harvest of the herd from 2006 to 2012, and regulations are based on the plan.

Management is designed to allow the Fortymile herd to continue to grow and expand into its former range in Alaska and Yukon. At about 50,000 animals, the Fortymile herd is the largest caribou herd in Interior Alaska.

The closure affects only state hunting regulations. Hunters with questions about federal subsistence regulations should call (800) 478-1456.



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