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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Wednesday, October 17, 2018**

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### **Fortymile Caribou Season on Steese Highway to Close after 2 Days**

The State of Alaska fall hunting season for Fortymile caribou in areas accessible from the Steese Highway and Chena Hot Springs road in Zone 1 will close after 2 days on Monday, October 22, 2018 at 11:59 p.m.

Caribou are present in portions of Zone 1 and harvest in the first 2 days of the season is expected to meet the quota of 325 caribou in that zone. The state hunting season is scheduled to remain open in Zones 2, 3, and 4.

The state winter hunting season for Fortymile caribou will open on October 21 in all zones. ADF&G staff will be monitoring the hunt carefully to minimize chances that the quota is exceeded in these zones.

Caribou movements during winter are largely unpredictable, and seasons may be closed in other zones to keep the harvest within the harvest quota. Hunters are advised to phone the Fortymile Caribou Hotline at 907-267-2310 before departing for the field to obtain the most current information on status of the hunt.

The annual Fortymile quota for 2018 is 2,030 caribou, with 545 allocated to the winter hunt. The winter quota is divided as follows: Zone 1 is 325 and Zone 3 is 220. Harvest in Zones 2 & 4 will be applied to the overall winter quota, but no pre-season allocation is given to these zones. The winter bag limit is 1 caribou.

Hunters may only harvest 1 Fortymile caribou per person during each regulatory year. Hunters that harvested a Fortymile caribou during the fall Fortymile season are not eligible to harvest another caribou during the upcoming winter hunt.

These changes only apply to state caribou hunts in these areas. The federal caribou hunt on federal lands is not affected by these changes. Hunters with questions about federal subsistence regulations should call (800) 478-1456.

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 April 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 I and II permits next year, and may be cited for a violation of the Alaska hunting regulations.

The Alaska Board of Game endorsed the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan (harvest plan) as a means of guiding harvest of the herd from 2012 through 2018. The harvest plan allocates all available Fortymile Herd harvest to a hunt area, divided into 4 Zones, south of the Yukon River in portions of Units 20B, 20D, 20F and all of Units 20E and 25C. Management is designed to allow the Fortymile Herd to continue to grow and expand within habitat limitations into its former range in Alaska and Yukon. At about 78,000 animals, the Fortymile Herd is the largest caribou herd in Interior Alaska.

