

Division of Wildlife Conservation
Ryan Scott, Acting Director

Region III Headquarters, Fairbanks
1300 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Doug Vincent-Lang, Commissioner

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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: Friday, July 21, 2023

New Fortymile Caribou Hunt Quota

(Tok, Alaska) – The Department of Fish and Game has set a fall quota for the Fortymile caribou hunt. Using composition, reproduction and survival data collected since last summer’s photocensus, the Department estimates that the herd has continued to decline since last summer, but likely at a slower rate than in the previous 3-4 years.

To allow for hunting opportunity but minimize the risk of reducing the population more than desired, the annual harvest quota for the herd will remain at a reduced level this year. The annual quota for the 2023-2024 hunting seasons will be set at 1,000. The fall quota will be 750 (bulls only) for all zones combined. Quotas for the Taylor and Steese Highway zones will be determined prior to the hunt opener based on caribou distribution. The winter hunt is preliminarily set to have a quota of 250, with no more than 100 cows. The bag limit for the winter hunt would be reduced to bull only if the cow quota is met.

These are reduced quotas from previous years and could result in shorter seasons than hunters have become accustomed to in the past several years. If quotas are met early, season closures could be announced by emergency order on short notice. To prevent overharvest, the Department may delay the hunt opening for one or more zones of RC860 if caribou abundance near the road system creates a risk of exceeding the overall quota.

The bag limit for resident and non-resident hunters hunting in the State of Alaska fall registration hunt (RC860) for Fortymile caribou will remain 1 bull in all Zones (1–4). The hunt will open in all Zones (1–4) on Thursday, August 10, 2022, at 12:01 a.m., as specified in the 2023-2024 Alaska Hunting Regulations. Permits will be available July 14th online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> and in person in Tok, Delta Junction, Eagle, Fairbanks, Central, Douglas, Anchorage, and Palmer.

The winter season and bag limit will be reevaluated once the results of this summer’s photocensus are finalized and harvest analysis of the fall season is complete.

Hunters are reminded to call the Fortymile Caribou Herd Hotline (907) 267-2310 for updates about the hunt quota and bag limit before departing for the field to learn of zone closures.

These seasons and bag limits only apply to state caribou hunts in these areas. Hunters with questions about federal subsistence regulations should call (800) 478-1456.

Successful hunters must report within three days of the kill online at (<http://hunt.alaska.gov>), by phone (907-883-2971), or in person at the ADF&G office in Tok. Hunters who report by phone must also mail their permit

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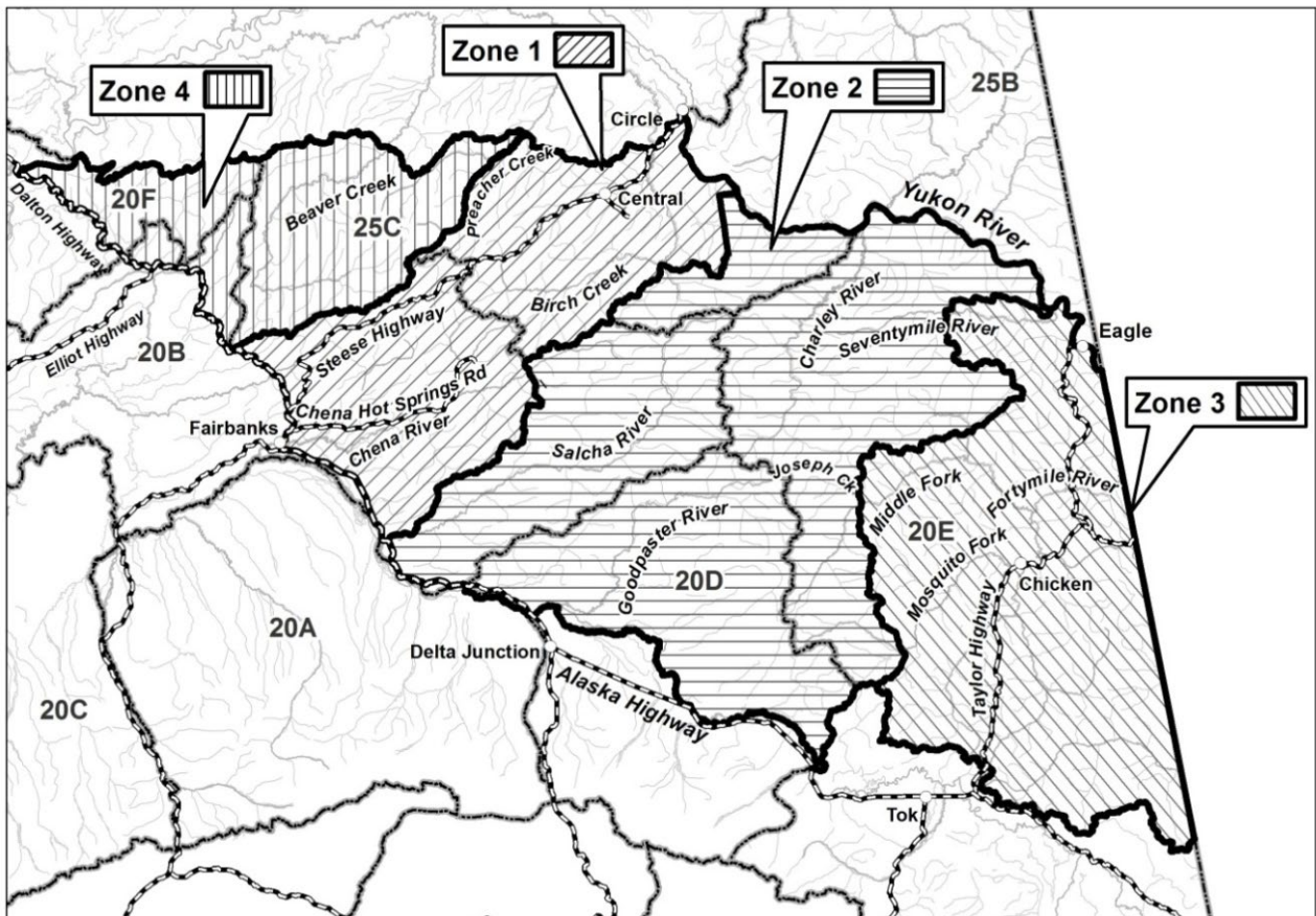


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reports or drop them off to the Tok ADF&G office. Unsuccessful hunters must return their reports to the Tok office or report online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> by October 15.

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 eligible to receive any permits (Draw, Targeted, Tier II, or Registration, including Tier I Nelchina caribou) during the next regulatory year, and may be cited.



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