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NEWS RELEASE

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Part of Winter Fortymile Caribou Season Closed

The state's winter registration hunt RC867 for Fortymile caribou in areas accessible from the Steese Highway and Chena Hot Springs Road in Units 20B and 25C (all of Zone 1) will close at 11:59 pm on Saturday night, January 12.

"The Fortymile caribou harvest has been steady since New Year's Day. We expect to meet or exceed the Zone 1 harvest quota by this weekend," said Management Coordinator Roy Nowlin.

The winter quota for Zone 1 is 150 caribou and 117 have been reported taken so far in that zone. The overall winter quota is 250 caribou. A total of 20 caribou have been taken in Zone 2 and none in Zone 4. Harvest in Zone 2 is counted against the quota in Zone 1. Only seven Fortymile caribou and about 50 Nelchina caribou have been harvested in Zone 3 this winter.

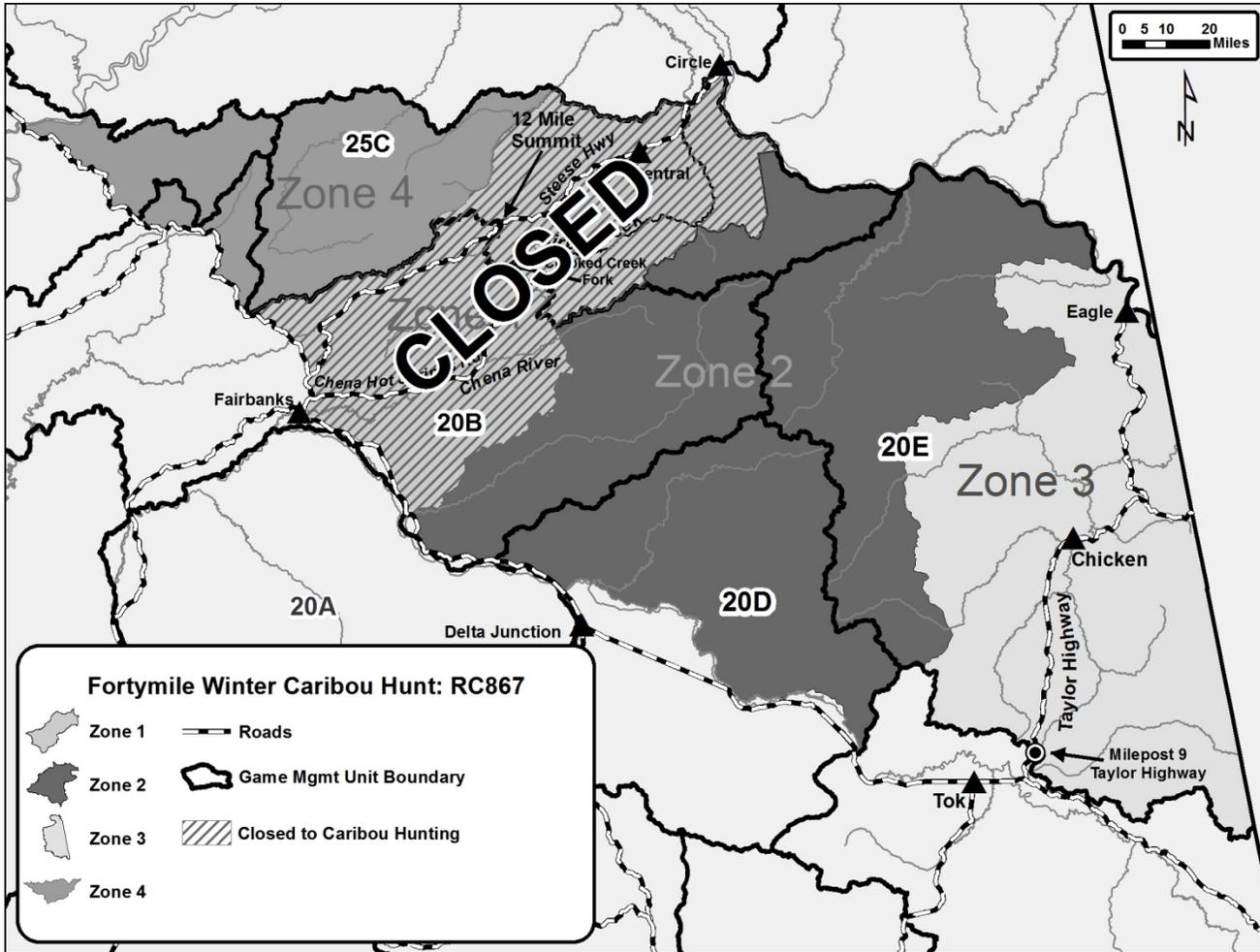
Hunters have three days to report, and the harvest tally is still rising.

Zones 2, 3 and 4 remain open to hunting caribou under RC867, but chances of taking Fortymile caribou in these areas are small at this time.

"Most caribou that have been harvested in Zone 3 this winter are from the Nelchina Herd. No caribou have been harvested yet from either the Fortymile or White Mountains herds in Zone 4, and not many caribou are accessible in Zone 2. Leaving these areas open offers some hunting opportunity with a low risk of affecting the Fortymile quota," Nowlin said.

The Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan guides harvest of the herd from 2012 through 2018. The annual harvest quota is divided into two seasons with 75% of the harvest allocated to the fall hunt and the remainder to the winter hunt.

The closure affects only state hunting regulations. The Fortymile caribou season currently remains open on federal lands for qualified hunters in all other parts of the RC867 hunt area. Hunters with questions about federal subsistence eligibility and regulations should call (800) 478-1456. Additional information is available on the Fortymile Caribou hotline at (907) 267-2310.



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