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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Wednesday, December 30, 2015**

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### **Part of Winter Fortymile Caribou Season to Close**

The State of Alaska winter hunting season for Fortymile caribou under Registration Hunt RC867 will close on lands accessible from the Steese Highway and Chena Hot Springs Road in Units 20B and 25C (all of Zone 1), at 11:59 p.m. Saturday night, January 2, 2016.

“The Fortymile caribou harvest has been steady during the first month of the season, and we expect to meet the Zone 1 harvest quota by this weekend,” said Tok Area Biologist Jeff Gross.

The overall winter quota is 298 caribou, of which 198 is allocated to the Zone 1 quota, and 100 is allocated to the Zone 3 quota. Reported harvest in Zone 3 during the first month of the season has been low. Zones 2, 3, and 4 remain open to caribou hunting under RC867.

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> within 15 days of the close of the season.

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 as a means of guiding harvest of the herd from 2012 through 2018. 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 50,000 animals, the Fortymile Herd is the largest caribou herd in Interior Alaska.

