

Division of Wildlife Conservation
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PRESS RELEASE

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Macomb Caribou Season to Close One Day Early

(DELTA JUNCTION) – Hunters planning to pursue the Macomb caribou herd under an RC835 permit are advised that the hunt will close at 11:59 p.m. on August 26.

Harvest of Macomb caribou has been steady since hunting opened on August 10, and we expect to meet the harvest quota of 60 bulls by Saturday night,” said Delta Area Biologist Bob Schmidt. This allows hunters one day to hunt using motorized vehicles.

Current surveys show the population is around 1,200 animals. The harvest quota was set at 60 bulls, which is within the harvest objective for this herd. This is a conservative quota after coming off of a population dip of 700-800 animals the last two years and a harvest quota of only 40 bulls in 2016.

As of August 24th, the harvest was at 34 animals, with more reports expected to trickle in before the motorized portion of the hunt begins. Half of the harvest typically comes during the two-day motorized portion of this hunt. Therefore biologists are closing the hunt one day early to make sure the quota isn’t greatly exceeded.

“We know many people look forward to two days of motorized hunting for the Macomb herd in the Delta Controlled Use Area, but unfortunately the higher non-motorized harvest rate isn’t going to allow that this year. However, we feel there are enough caribou to allow one day of motorized hunting to at least give people some motorized opportunity,” said Area Biologist, Bob Schmidt.

Successful hunters must report within two days of the kill on the internet at <http://hunt.alaska.gov>, or in person or by phone to the ADF&G office in Delta Junction (895-4484). Hunters who report by phone must also mail their permit reports or drop them off at the ADF&G office in Fairbanks or Delta Junction. Unsuccessful hunters must return their reports to an ADF&G 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.

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The Macomb caribou herd roams the eastern Alaska Range between Delta River and Yerrick Creek south of the Alaska Highway. Since the early 1970s, the herd's numbers have ranged from 350 to around 1,500 animals. Today the Macomb herd is managed for a fall population of 600-800 with a sustainable harvest of 30-70 caribou.

For more information, contact Wildlife Biologist Bob Schmidt in Delta Junction at (907) 895-7491, or e-mail bob.schmidt@alaska.gov

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