

Division of Wildlife Conservation
Bruce Dale, Director
Headquarters
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Sam Cotten, Commissioner
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Jeff Gross, 907-883-2971

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 open for 2 days, August 29-30, and close at 11:59 p.m. Wednesday night, August 30, 2017.

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 225 bulls in that zone. The state hunting season is scheduled to remain open in Zones 2, 3, and 4.

Caribou are abundant in Zone 2 (located in parts of Unit 20B, 20D north of the Tanana River, and western 20E) and widely scattered in portions of Zones 3 (Taylor Highway area) and 4 (White Mountains).

State hunting seasons for Fortymile caribou opened on August 10 in Zones 2 and 4, and will open on August 29 in Zones 1 and 3. ADF&G staff will be monitoring the hunt carefully to minimize chances that the quota is exceeded in these zones.

Caribou movements during fall are largely unpredictable, and seasons may be closed in other zones to keep the harvest within the 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 is 1,000 caribou, with 750 allocated to the fall hunt and 250 to the winter hunt. The fall quota of 750 is divided as follows: Zones 1 and 4 combined is 225, Zone 2 is 185 and Zone 3 is 340. The fall bag limit is 1 bull.

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 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 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 50,000 animals, the Fortymile Herd is the largest caribou herd in Interior Alaska.

