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NEWS RELEASE

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Fortymile Caribou Season to Open Early Steese Highway Hunt to Last 4 Days

The State of Alaska winter hunting season for Fortymile caribou under Registration Hunt RC867 will open early in the entire Fortymile Caribou hunt area, beginning at 12:01 a.m. Friday, November 17, 2017. The hunt will be open for 4 days (November 17–20) on lands accessible from the Steese Highway (Zone 1). However, hunters will still be able to hunt caribou after November 20 in the remainder of the hunt area (Zones 2, 3 and 4), including lands accessible from the Taylor Highway in Unit 20E.

“Caribou are currently available in zones 1 and 3, but could move out of those zones prior to the normal December 1 opening for the winter hunt. We are opening the hunt early to provide hunters an opportunity to hunt Fortymile caribou before they disperse from these zones”, said Tok Area Biologist Jeff Gross.

The annual Fortymile caribou harvest quota is allocated seasonally: 75% to the fall hunt and 25%, plus any surplus from the fall quota, to the winter hunt. With a new herd population estimate of over 71,000, this winter’s total harvest quota is set at 1,000 caribou.

“This year’s increased winter quota is allowing us to provide this additional opportunity that would not have been possible in previous years with lower quotas” Gross said.

The winter quota is divided between the 2 road-accessible portions of the hunt area, the Steese Highway–Chena Hot Springs area in Units 20B and 25C (zone 1) and the Taylor Highway area in Unit 20E (zone 3). Sixty percent of the harvest quota is allocated to the road-accessible zone with the most caribou within reach of hunters immediately prior to the season opening. Based on current herd distribution, 600 caribou will be allocated to zone 1 and 400 to zone 3, during this year’s winter hunt.

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.

