

# **White Mountains Caribou Herd Management Report and Plan, Game Management Units 25C, 20B, and 20F:**

Report Period 1 July 2012–30 June 2017, and

Plan Period 1 July 2017–30 June 2022

**Mark Nelson**





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## **Purpose of this Report**

This report provides a record of survey and inventory management activities for caribou in Unit 25C (western portion), 20B (northern portion), and 20F (eastern portion) collectively considered the White Mountains Herd for the previous 5 regulatory years and plans for survey and inventory management activities in the 5 years following the end of that period. A regulatory year (RY) begins 1 July and ends 30 June (e.g., RY10 = 1 July 2010–30 June 2011). This report is produced primarily to provide agency staff with data and analysis to help guide and record its own efforts, but is also provided to the public to inform them of wildlife management activities. In 2016 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's Division of Wildlife Conservation launched this 5-year report to more efficiently report on trends and describe potential changes in data collection activities over the next 5 years. It replaces the caribou management reports of survey and inventory activities that were previously produced every 2 years and supersedes the 1976 draft Alaska wildlife management plans (ADF&G 1976).

## **I. RY12–RY16 Management Report**

### **Management Area**

The White Mountains Caribou Herd (WMCH) occupies the White Mountains north of Fairbanks in portions of Game Management Units 25C (western portion), 20B (northern portion), and 20F (eastern portion). The area primarily includes land managed by U.S. Bureau of Land Management (White Mountains National Recreation Area, Steese National Conservation Area, and Mount Prindle Research Natural Area), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge), and the State of Alaska encompassing approximately 3,090 mi<sup>2</sup>. Temperatures occasionally reach 70° F to 80° F in the summer, and anywhere from -40° F to 50° F in winter.

### **Summary of Status, Trend, Management Activities, and History of Caribou in Units 25C (western half), 20B (northern portion), and 20F (eastern portion)**

Prior to the 1960s, caribou from the Fortymile caribou herd (FCH) occupied the White Mountains during the summer months, but left the area soon after the calving season ended and no caribou were reported in the area during the fall and winter (Jones 1961). As the FCH declined throughout the 1960s they stopped using the White Mountains for calving and rarely crossed north and west of the Steese Highway (Valkenburg 1988). During the 1970s, a group of 100–200 caribou were found to be staying northwest of the Steese Highway all year (Valkenburg 1988). This group was determined to be a separate group and has since been referred to as the White Mountains caribou herd. While the origin of the herd was assumed to be remnants of a larger FCH, some genetic evidence suggests that WMCH are distinct from FCH and may have always been a separate herd (Mager et al. 2014). Regardless of their origin, the WMCH and FCH mix extensively when the FCH is large and conversely mix very little when the FCH is small. The WMCH appeared to grow throughout the 1980s and was estimated by the Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM) at 1,200 caribou by 1992 (Young 2015). White Mountains caribou herd remained stable through the 1990s, began declining during the 2000s, and by 2011 was

estimated to be below 500 caribou (Young 2015; Table 1). While the WMCH was declining, the FCH was growing in size from an estimated 19,975 in 1987 to over 50,000 by 2009 (Gross 2015). The increasing FCH began crossing the Steese Highway and started mixing with WMCH during 2008 and when they returned south of the Steese Highway, later that winter, a few collared WMCH individuals appeared to follow (Young 2015). This pattern of mixing has increased since 2008 resulting in a change in management. Prior to RY12 the WMCH and FCH hunt seasons, dates, and hunt locations were managed separately, and harvest from the WMCH was very low (fewer than 30 caribou per regulatory year from RY02 to RY12; Table 2). However, starting with RY12, the White Mountains was added as the fourth zone of the FCH management scheme and harvest quotas in all zones are now managed as part of the overall FCH management plan.

## **Management Direction**

### **EXISTING WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PLANS**

No current plan exists specifically for WMCH, however, the 1976 draft “Alaska wildlife management plans” has been used as a guiding document for management (ADF&G 1976). The most recent species management report is found in Chapter 16 of Caribou management report of survey and inventory activities 1 July 2012–30 June 2014 and includes a recommendations section outlining the management direction for this herd (Young 2015).

### **GOALS**

- G1. Ensure that increased recreational use and mining development do not adversely affect the White Mountains caribou herd.
- G2. Provide the greatest sustained opportunity for hunting caribou.
- G3. Provide an opportunity to view and photograph caribou.

### **CODIFIED OBJECTIVES**

#### Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses

Under 5 AAC 99.025, customary and traditional uses of game populations, WMCH is not listed. Therefore, the WMCH does not have a positive finding for customary and traditional uses and there is no amount designated for this herd as reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

#### Intensive Management

Under 5 AAC 92.108, “Identified big game prey populations and objectives,” WMCH has a negative finding. Therefore, there are no intensive management objectives.

## MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

- M1. Maintain a stable or increasing population with a fall bull:cow ratio of at least 30 bulls:100 cows.

## MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

### 1. Population Status and Trend

#### ACTIVITY 1.1. Conduct fall composition surveys.

##### *Data Needs*

Composition surveys were conducted to assess management objective M1 (30 bulls:100 cows) in the White Mountains. Maintaining a ratio of more than or equal to 30 bulls to 100 cows will ensure that enough bull caribou are available in the herd for reproduction purposes and that goals G2 and G3 are met. The RY12–RY16 harvest strategy focused more harvest effort on bull caribou with a bull-only fall season (RC860) for both residents (51 days) and nonresidents (41 days). The resident-only winter season was 1 (any) caribou for up to 120 days. Both seasons were subject to closure by emergency order as quotas set by the FCH management plan were reached. Goal G3 is enhanced by a ratio with more than 30 bulls to 100 cows because bull caribou generally have larger antlers than cows which are desirable for viewing and photographing.

Composition data were also used to determine annual recruitment potential, which is defined as the number of calves surviving until the surveys are flown in the fall, via the ratio of calves to 100 cows. This information is important in monitoring the population fluctuations especially with the WMCH declining over the last decade. While much of this decline could be attributed to mixing with the FCH, monitoring recruitment within the WMCH would indicate if population level changes are due to declining productivity and calf survival.

##### *Methods*

Composition surveys were conducted during October using an R-44 helicopter and Bellanca Scout or Piper PA-18 fixed-wing aircraft. Personnel in the fixed-wing aircraft located radiocollared caribou and radioed the locations to the R-44. The R-44 pilot then approached each individual caribou close enough for a biologist in the R-44 to classify them into 5 categories: cows, calves, small bulls, medium bulls, and large bulls (Eagan 1993). All groups of caribou associated with each collar were classified, as well as random groups found by either the helicopter crew or the fixed-wing pilot. The number of caribou in each category was tallied on a 5-position counter, recorded on a datasheet, and all groups in the White Mountains were combined.

##### *Results and Discussion*

The WMCH is small, rarely congregates, and is often mixed (based on locations of collared caribou) to some extent with the FCH making the WMCH a poor candidate for photo-based census surveys. Conducting fall composition surveys of the WMCH, when bulls and cows are mixed during the rut, remains the best method for documenting changes in demographics,

especially when conducted on an annual basis. When no FCH are mixed (based on locations of collared caribou) with WMCH, the fall composition surveys can also be used as a minimum estimate of herd size. Fall composition surveys document changes in recruitment potential (calf-to-cow ratio, percent calves), defined as the number of calves that survive until the October surveys are conducted. Multiple years with low recruitment may be an indicator of increased-calf predation, low production, or a combination of both. Composition surveys also provide information about the number and size of bulls in the herd (bull-to-cow ratio, the number of large bulls:100 cows, percent bulls, percent small bulls, percent medium bulls, percent large bulls) which are important indicators for monitoring hunter satisfaction, for ensuring enough bulls in the herd for reproduction, and as a measure of adult survival.

The ratio of calves to 100 cows ranged from 15:100 to 33:100, with the last 2 years (RY15 and RY16) being the most at 28:100 and 33:100, respectively (Table 1). The ratio of bulls to 100 cows ranged from 27:100 to 47:100 during RY12–RY16 (Table 1). The lowest bulls to 100 cows ratios were during RY12 and RY13 (31:100 and 27:100 bulls to cows respectively) which was at or below management objective M1 (30 bulls:100 cows), but RY15 and RY16 (47:100 and 39:100 bulls to cows respectively) were both above M1 (Table 1).

#### *Recommendations for Activity 1.1.*

Continue Activity 1.1 except for when FCH have moved into the area mixing with WMCH. When this occurs, the composition data is compromised and will not accurately describe the WMCH.

**Table 1. Composition survey data from the White Mountains caribou herd, Interior Alaska, regulatory years 2012–2016.**

Regulatory year	Survey date	Bulls: 100 cows	Large bulls: 100 cows	Calves: 100 cows	Calves (%)	Cows (%)	Bulls (%)	Small bulls (%)	Medium bulls (%)	Large bulls (%)	Sample size
RY12	09/26/2012	31	10	15	10	68	21	25	41	34	336
RY13	10/03/2013	27	10	20	13	68	18	32	30	38	328
RY14	2014 <sup>a</sup>	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
RY15	10/27/2015	47	17	28	16	57	27	25	39	36	105
RY16	10/12/2016	39	8	33	19	58	23	47	32	21	84

*Note:* A regulatory year (RY) begins 1 July and ends 30 June (e.g., regulatory year 2012 = 1 July 2012–30 June 2013).

<sup>a</sup> Composition survey was not conducted in 2014.

## 2. Mortality-Harvest Monitoring and Regulations

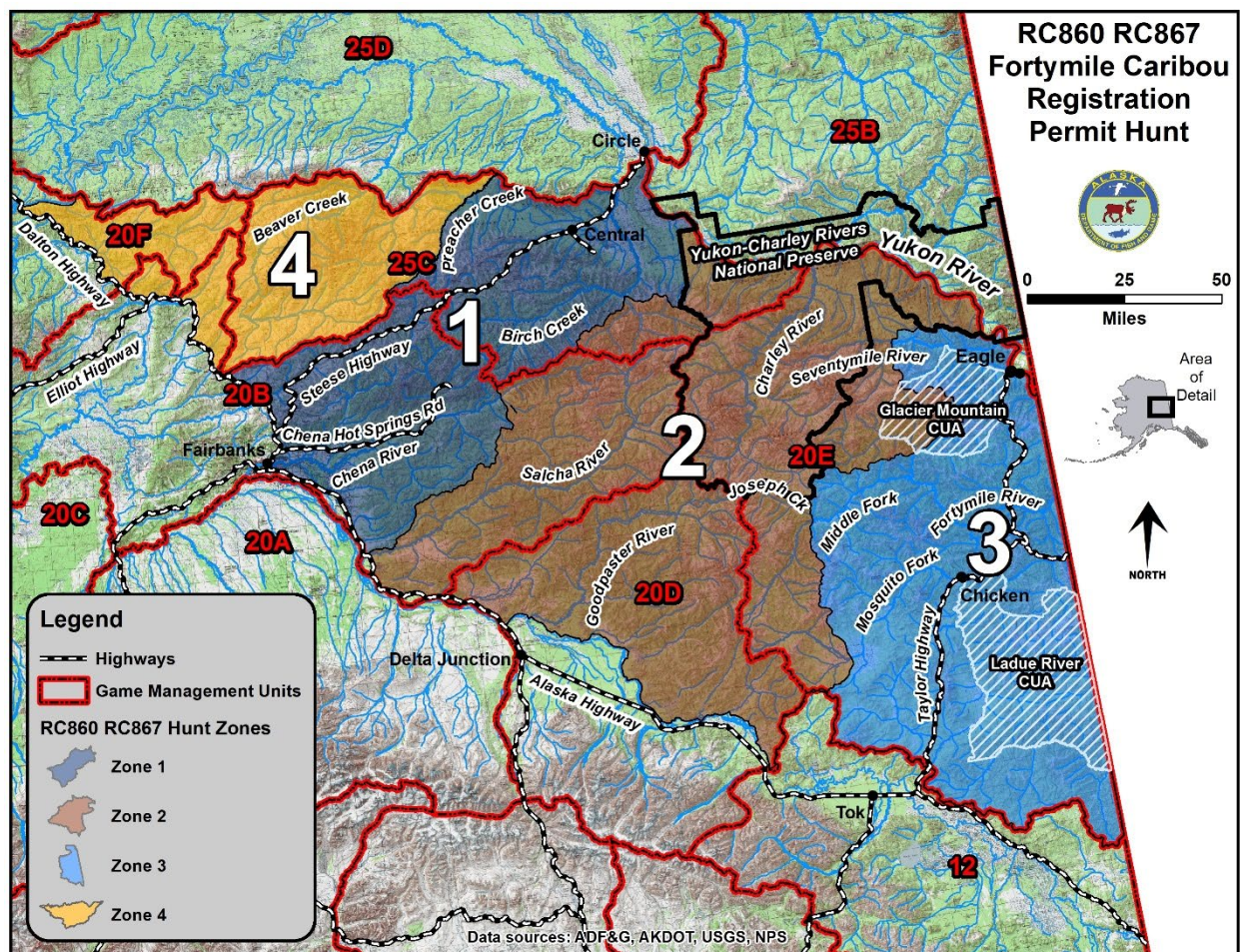
### ACTIVITY 2.1. Monitor hunter harvest and effort.

#### *Data Needs*

Monitoring hunter harvest is necessary to document the human-caused mortality of WMCH annually and to ensure that we are meeting G2, providing the greatest opportunity for hunting caribou in the White Mountains.

#### *Methods*

Because WMCH and FCH overlap during certain parts of the year, harvest location is used as the distinction between the herds. Caribou harvested within zone 4 of the FCH–WMCH harvest management scheme and south of the Yukon River in Unit 20F were considered WMCH (Fig. 1). Harvest was summarized by regulatory year.



**Figure 1. Map showing the hunting zones that have been designated for the Fortymile and White Mountains caribou herds, Interior Alaska.**



### *Season and Bag Limit*

The WMCH is currently managed as part of the FCH-WMCH management scheme. Bag limits and season dates were adjusted according to the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Management Plan (Harvest Management Coalition 2012).

### *Results and Discussion*

Since RY12, the season dates and bag limits have been guided by the FCH harvest management plan as zone 4 but continue to be separately documented and reported as harvest of WMCH.

#### Harvest by Hunters

Except for unusually large harvests in RY99, RY00, and RY01 which were 39, 61, and 40 caribou respectively, the harvest has not exceeded 26 caribou in the past 30 years (Table 2). It is important to note that prior to RY12, the boundary between WMCH and FCH was the Steese Highway, so these large harvests that occurred in RY99–RY01 could have been a result of FCH caribou crossing north of the Steese Highway during the hunting season. When FCH animals move into zone 4 the availability of caribou to harvest can abruptly increase, therefore, we will monitor the movements of FCH via satellite and radiocollared caribou to determine if abrupt increases in harvest can be attributed to an influx of FCH.

RY12 — Estimated WMCH harvest was 26 caribou total (Table 2). Twenty-two bulls and 1 caribou of unknown sex were harvested during the RC860 fall hunt, and 1 bull and 2 cows were taken during the RC867 winter hunt.

RY13 — Estimated WMCH harvest was 7 bull caribou taken during the RC860 fall hunt (Table 2).

RY14 — Estimated WMCH harvest was 8 bull caribou taken during the RC860 fall hunt (Table 2).

RY15 — Estimated WMCH harvest was 1 bull during the RC860 fall hunt (Table 2).

RY16 — Estimated WMCH harvest was 17 caribou total (Table 2). Five bulls and 1 caribou of unknown sex were harvested during the RC860 fall hunt; and 6 bull and 5 cows were harvested during the RC867 winter hunt.

During RY12–RY16, hunters harvested between 1 (RY15) and 26 (RY12) caribou per year for a total of 59 caribou (50 bulls, 7 cows, 2 unknown).

**Table 2. Fall and winter harvest of White Mountains caribou, Interior Alaska, regulatory years 2012–2016.**

Regulatory year	Fall harvest (RC860) <sup>a</sup>			Winter harvest (RC867) <sup>a</sup>			Combined harvest			
	M	F	Unk	M	F	Unk	M	F	Unk	Total
RY12	22	0	1	1	2	0	23	2	1	26
RY13	7	0	0	— <sup>b</sup>	— <sup>b</sup>	— <sup>b</sup>	7	0	0	7
RY14	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	8
RY15	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
RY16	5	0	1	6	5	0	11	5	1	17

*Note:* Regulatory year (RY) begins 1 July and ends 30 June (e.g., regulatory year 2012 = 1 July 2012–30 June 2013).

<sup>a</sup> RC = Registration caribou hunt.

<sup>b</sup> Winter hunt RC867 was cancelled in RY13.

### Hunter Residency and Success

Based on harvest reports, successful hunters in the White Mountains were all Alaska residents during this reporting period. No nonresident hunters were successful during the current 5-year reporting period (RY12–RY16).

### Permit Hunts

Since RY12, both the fall and winter hunt in the White Mountains were regulated by registration permits RC860 (fall) and RC867 (winter) through the FCH harvest management plan as zone 4. This management strategy will continue so long as FCH continues to range into the White Mountains and mix with WMCH.

### Transport Methods

Four-wheelers were the dominant transportation method used to access WMCH from RY12 to RY16, but in RY16, increased snowmachine use to 69% from the previous 4-year average of 3% reflects the increased hunting effort during the winter RC867 season (Table 3).

**Table 3. Transportation methods by percent of successful White Mountains caribou hunters, Interior Alaska, regulatory years 2012–2016.**

Regulatory year	Airplane (%)	Boat (%)	4-wheeler (%)	Snowmachine (%)	Highway vehicle (%)	None used <sup>a</sup> (%)
RY12	12	4	68	12	0	4
RY13	14	14	71	0	0	0
RY14	0	13	75	0	13	0
RY15	0	0	100	0	0	0
RY16	0	0	25	69	6	0

*Note:* Regulatory year (RY) begins 1 July and ends 30 June (e.g., regulatory year 2012 = 1 July 2012–30 June 2013).

<sup>a</sup> None used = Likely indicates someone began walking and hunting from their place of residence.

### *Other Mortality*

None to report.

### *Alaska Board of Game Actions and Emergency Orders*

RY12 — No emergency orders issued.

RY13 — Emergency order 03-07-13 closed the fall caribou hunt (RC860) in zone 4 at 11:59 PM 20 September 2013 (Appendix A). Emergency order 03-10-13 closed the winter caribou hunt (RC867) in zone 4 at 11:59 PM 1 November 2013 (Appendix B).

RY14 — Emergency order 03-01-15 closed the winter caribou hunt (RC867) in zone 4 at 11:59 PM 22 February 2015 (Appendix C).

RY15 — Emergency order 03-02-16 closed the winter caribou hunt (RC867) in zone 4 at 11:59 PM 4 March 2016 (Appendix D).

RY16 — No emergency orders issued.

### *Recommendations for Activity 2.1*

Continue to document changes in harvest over time in the White Mountains and to evaluate management goal G2.

## 3. Habitat Assessment–Enhancement

### ACTIVITY 3.1. Monitoring.

No monitoring activity occurred during RY12–RY16, and no changes are recommended.

## **NONREGULATORY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OR NEEDS**

### Data Recording and Archiving

- Harvest data are stored on an internal database housed on ADF&G's Wildlife Information Network (WinfoNet) server (<http://winfonet.alaska.gov/index.cfm>) and archived in WinfoNet under Harvest Information and Survey and Inventory Tools.
- All other electronic files such as survey memoranda, reports, and maps are located on the Fairbanks server (S:\Fairbanks\_Area\Caribou).
- All hard copies of field capture cards, memos, and reports are stored in office 118 filing cabinets. Field capture cards were scanned and stored, along with electronic copies of memoranda and reports on the S: drive in Fairbanks under "Fairbanks Area" and in WinfoNet data archives.

### Agreements

FCH harvest management coalition harvest plan for 2012–2018 (Harvest Management Coalition 2012).

## Permitting

Not applicable.

## **Conclusions and Management Recommendations**

The fall goal of a bull-to-cow ratio of 30:100 was not met during RY13 (27 bulls:100 cows) but was met for 3 of the 4 years (RY12, RY15, RY16). No survey was completed in RY14. ADF&G biologists expect mixing of FCH into the White Mountains to continue in the future, and efforts will be made to determine if FCH caribou are in the area when composition surveys are conducted to better interpret the results.

Mixing of WMCH and FCH complicates the analysis of composition data, limits the ability to conduct population surveys and estimate harvest, and limits the ability to capture WMCH for collaring. However, continuing to collect these data is important to document how the 2 herds are currently mixing, and in the future may be useful to document the existence of the WMCH as a unique herd.

## **II. Project Review and RY17–RY21 Plan**

### **Review of Management Direction**

#### **MANAGEMENT DIRECTION**

There are no changes in the management direction for WMCH. We will continue to conduct composition surveys, monitor harvest, and document mixing of FCH with WMCH. The future management direction of the WMCH will depend on the level of encroachment and mixing with FCH. If the mixing continues to the point where WMCH fails to be identifiable as a unique herd then managing the WMCH as unique would no longer be appropriate.

The goals for WMCH management will remain the same as the previous management report with the addition of a fourth goal (G4) that will focus on the question of the 2 herds mixing.

#### **GOALS**

- G1. Ensure that increased recreational use and mining development do not adversely affect caribou or caribou hunting opportunities.
- G2. Provide for the greatest sustained opportunity for hunting caribou in the White Mountains.
- G3. Provide for an opportunity to view and photograph caribou in the White Mountains.
- G4. Monitor WMCH and FCH movements to better determine if and to what extent mixing is occurring, especially during rutting and calving periods.

## **CODIFIED OBJECTIVES**

### Amounts Reasonably Necessary for Subsistence Uses

- C1. WMCH is not listed in 5 AAC 99.025. “Customary and traditional uses of game populations.” Therefore, the WMCH does not have a positive finding for customary and traditional uses and there is no amount designated for this herd as reasonably necessary for subsistence uses.

### Intensive Management

- C2. WMCH has a negative finding in 5 AAC 92.108. “Identified big game prey populations and objectives.” Therefore, there are no intensive management objectives.

## **MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES**

- M1. Maintain a stable or increasing population with a fall (during rutting season) bull-to-cow ratio of at least 30 bulls:100 cows.

## **REVIEW OF MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES**

### 1. Population Status and Trend

ACTIVITY 1.1. Conduct a fall composition survey.

#### *Data Needs*

A composition survey is necessary to monitor the management objective (M1) of 30 bulls:100 cows in the White Mountains. Composition data will also be used to monitor potential recruitment (calves:100 cows).

Composition surveys are necessary to assess M1 (30 bulls:100 cows) in the White Mountains. Maintaining a bull-to cow ratio of at least 30:100 will ensure that enough bull caribou are in the herd for reproduction purposes, and that goals G2 (greatest hunting opportunity) and G3 (caribou viewing) are met. Goal G3 is enhanced by a ratio with more than 30 bulls to 100 cows because bull caribou generally have larger antlers than cows which are desirable for viewing and photographing.

Composition data will also be used to determine annual recruitment potential, defined as the number of calves surviving until the surveys are flown in the fall, via calves:100 cows. This information is important in monitoring population fluctuations especially with the WMCH declining over the last decade. While much of this decline could be attributed to mixing with the FCH (G4), monitoring recruitment within the WMCH would indicate if population level changes are due to local conditions.

#### *Methods*

Composition surveys will be conducted during October using an R-44 helicopter and Bellanca Scout or Piper PA-18 fixed-wing aircraft. Personnel in the fixed-wing aircraft will locate

radiocollared caribou and radio the locations to the R-44. The R-44 pilot will then approach the caribou close enough for a biologist in the R-44 to classify them into 5 categories: cows, calves, small bulls, medium bulls, and large bulls (Eagan 1993). All caribou in groups associated with each collar will be classified as well as random groups found by either the helicopter crew or the fixed-wing pilot. The number of caribou in each category will be tallied on a 5-position counter, recorded on a datasheet, combined, and summarized in a survey memorandum to the management coordinator.

#### ACTIVITY 1.2. Monitor caribou movements.

##### *Data Needs*

Due to the recent seasonal expansion of the FCH into the White Mountains, it is important to better understand the overlap of FCH and WMCH ranges and to document how the 2 herds are mixing (G4). The future management direction of the WMCH depends on the WMCH being a unique herd. If it is determined that mixing of FCH and WMCH has occurred to the point that the 2 herds are no longer unique, then the management of the WMCH should shift to the larger FCH management plan. The only reliable method of documenting caribou movements and herd range is to deploy radio- or satellite-linked collars on enough individuals within the WMCH to represent the range and movements of the herd and to monitor the range and movements of collared FCH.

##### *Methods*

We will strive to maintain at least 20 radio- or satellite-linked collared caribou in the WMCH and regularly relocate these caribou throughout the year. Caribou will be captured by either chemical immobilization or by net gunning, both of which are proven techniques for capturing caribou.

We will work with the FCH management and research biologists to better document the integration of the 2 herds. Because the harvest of both FCH and WMCH is currently regulated through the FCH harvest management plan and because collaring WMCH caribou is difficult due to mixing with FCH, management options associated with the WMCH are limited.

## 2. Mortality-Harvest Monitoring

#### ACTIVITY 2.1. Monitor hunter harvest and effort.

##### *Data Needs*

Continue to monitor the harvest of caribou in the White Mountains. White Mountains caribou harvest levels are generally low, but we must continue to monitor the harvest to evaluate G2, providing for the sustained opportunity to hunt caribou in the White Mountains. Currently, both the fall and winter hunt in the White Mountains are regulated by registration permits (i.e., RC860 (fall) and RC867 (winter)). The quotas for these hunts are set through the FCH harvest management plan as zone 4. This management strategy will continue so long as FCH continue to range into the White Mountains and mix with WMCH.

### *Methods*

Hunters are required to report their harvest either online or by submitting a written report. Harvest reports are entered into WinfoNet, the statewide harvest database where they are accessible by query by ADF&G staff. Harvest data including total harvest, harvest location, hunter residency, success, number of days hunted, harvest chronology, and the types of transportation used will be summarized by regulatory year to evaluate G2, providing for the sustained opportunity to hunt caribou in the White Mountains.

### 3. Habitat Enhancement and Assessment

No habitat assessments are planned for RY17–RY21. In the future, an assessment of the nutritional status of White Mountains caribou would help inform management of the herd if budget and staff time allows.

### 4. Caribou Management with Public Participation and Outreach

ACTIVITY 4.1. Prepare the 5-year caribou management report and plans.

### *Data Needs*

Species management reports and plans must be updated to account for changes in the caribou herd, habitat, and interest from user groups.

### *Methods*

This report and plan will be updated every 5 years. Each year during the plan period (RY17–RY21), data and information for the draft will be compiled. At the close of this plan period in 2022, the report and plan for the following cycle (1 July 2017–30 June 2022, and plan period 1 July 2022–30 June 2027) will be drafted and finalized. ADF&G will gather data from various sources regarding the White Mountains caribou herd into this herd-specific 5-year species management report and plan series that includes historical and current data, management directions, methods, Board of Game actions, harvests and natural mortalities, habitat assessments, local and regionwide nonregulatory issues, and operational planning for the next 5-year period. ADF&G biologists will use these species management reports and plans to retain ongoing records of White Mountains caribou management, and to prepare presentations to the Board of Game. User groups and land management agencies will also likely use these species management reports and plans in their planning processes.

In addition to documenting the White Mountains caribou herd operational plan in the next 5-year species management report and plan, we will also assess and revise management direction to account for any significant changes that might occur in terms of population status and trend, habitat, or public use for this herd. Population objectives are derived from years of surveys and research and are necessary to balance harvests with herd size, promote evenly-aged composition within the herd, estimate future population characteristics, and derive the carrying capacity of caribou habitat in the White Mountains. These objectives are integral to the planning process for sustained consumptive and nonconsumptive public uses, and for the sustainability of caribou populations. Although population objectives may not always be achieved for the herd, they are important to retain as standards for thorough quantitative analysis to monitor the population.

ACTIVITY 4.2. Provide caribou management information to state and federal regulatory processes.

#### *Data Needs*

As the manager of the White Mountains caribou herd, ADF&G is called upon by the public, the Alaska Board of Game, and the federal land management agencies (e. g., BLM and USFWS) to provide information about the herd's status, trend, harvestable surplus, and other relevant biological issues related to the herd.

#### *Methods*

Whenever a proposal to change a regulation affecting White Mountains caribou is before the Board of Game or the Federal Subsistence Board, the ADF&G biologists that are responsible for White Mountains caribou management will provide population status and harvest information to the boards, and also to state fish and game advisory committees, and federal regional advisory councils. In-depth data concerning White Mountains caribou will be shared with other state and federal agencies when a need is identified, and an appropriate data sharing agreement is in place.

ACTIVITY 4.3. Participate with resource management agencies to maintain a caribou herd cooperative management plan.

#### *Data Needs*

The WMCH is included in the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan (Harvest Management Coalition 2012). This plan is necessary to ensure management decisions and harvest strategies are developed with input from interested stakeholders.

#### *Methods*

The Fortymile caribou herd harvest plan (Harvest Management Coalition 2012) includes harvest of WMCH as part of the overall FCH management strategy. No specific plan exists for the WMCH nor is one necessary. ADF&G participates in the FCH Harvest Management Coalition discussions and assists to develop this plan to responsibly manage both the WMCH and the FCH.

## **NONREGULATORY MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS OR NEEDS**

### Data Recording and Archiving

- Harvest data will be stored on an internal database housed on ADF&G's Wildlife Information Network (WinfoNet) server (<http://winfonet.alaska.gov/index.cfm>) and archived in WinfoNet under Harvest Information and Survey and Inventory Tools.
- All other electronic files such as survey memoranda, reports, and maps will be located on the Fairbanks server (S:\Fairbanks\_Area\Caribou).
- All hard copies of field capture cards, memos, and reports are stored in office 118 filing cabinets. Field capture cards will be scanned and stored, along with electronic copies of memoranda and reports on the S: drive in Fairbanks under "Fairbanks Area" and in WinfoNet under "Region III Memos".



## Agreements

FCH harvest management coalition harvest plan for 2012–2018 (Harvest Management Coalition 2012).

## Permitting

Not applicable.

## **References Cited**

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 1976. Alaska wildlife management plans: A public proposal for the management of Alaska's wildlife: Interior Alaska. Draft proposal subsequently approved by the Alaska Board of Game. Division of Game, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-17-R, Juneau.
- Eagan, R. M. 1993. Delta caribou herd (including Yanert)/Subunit 20A. Pages 122–147 [In] S. M. Abbott, editor. Caribou management report of survey and inventory activities 1 July 1990–30 June 1992. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Study 3.0, Juneau.
- Gross, J. A. 2015. Units 20B, 20C, 20D, 20E, and 25C caribou. Chapter 12, 12-1 through 12-34 [In] P. Harper and L. A. McCarthy, editors. Caribou management report of survey and inventory activities 1 July 2012–30 June 2014. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Species Management Report ADF&G/DWC/SMR-2015-4, Juneau.
- Harvest Management Coalition. 2012 Fortymile caribou herd harvest plan 2012–2018. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Fairbanks, Alaska.
- Jones, F. F. 1961. Movements, distribution, and numbers: Steese–Fortymile herd. Pages 91–101 [In] Caribou Investigations. Annual Report of Progress 1 April 1960–31 March 1961. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Game, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Project W-6-R-2, Juneau.
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- Valkenburg, P. 1988. Units 20B, 20F, 25C, and 25D White Mountains caribou. Pages 51–53 [In] S. O. Morgan, editor. Caribou management report of survey and inventory activities 1 July 1986–30 June 1987. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Game, Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Study 3.0, Juneau.
- Young Jr., D. D. 2015. Unit 20A caribou. Chapter 16, pages 16-1 through 16-12 [In] P. Harper and L. A. McCarthy, editors. Caribou management report of survey and inventory activities 1 July 2012–30 June 2014. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Species Management Report ADF&G/DWC/SMR-2015-4, Juneau.

Appendix A. Emergency Order No. 03-07-13 which closed the fall caribou hunt (RC860) in zone 4 at 11:59 PM 20 September 2013.

# Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game

**Emergency Order No.** 03-07-13

**Issued at:** Fairbanks, Alaska  
September 17, 2013

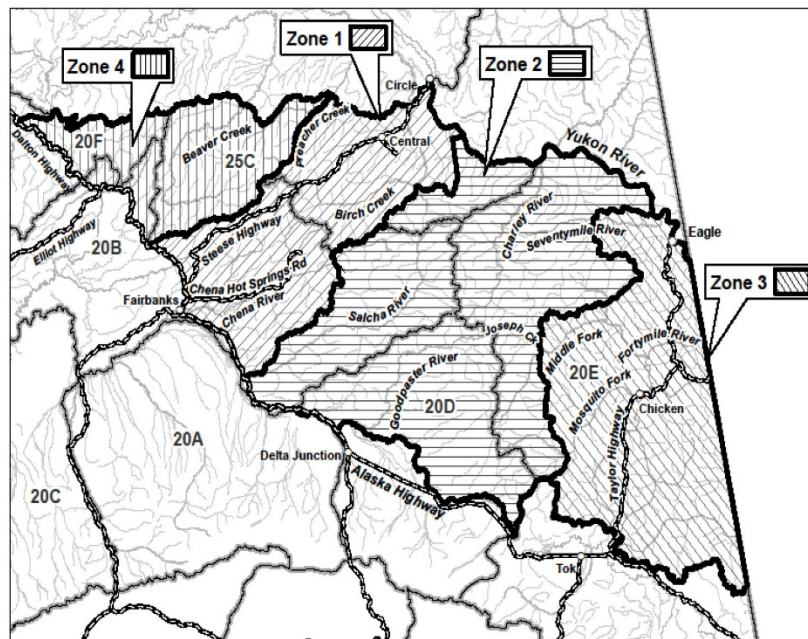
**Effective Date:** 11:59 PM  
September 20, 2013

**Expiration Date:** June 30, 2014  
unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order

**EXPLANATION:**

State registration permit hunt RC860 for the Fortymile Caribou Herd is divided into 4 zones. This emergency order closes Zones 2 and 4 in the remaining portions of the Fortymile Caribou hunt area in Game Management Units 20B, 20D, 20E, 20F and 25C. Zones 1 and 3 were closed earlier by Emergency Orders 03-05-13 and 05-06-13.

No other caribou hunting regulations in Units 20 or 25 are affected by this emergency order.



## Appendix A. Page 2 of 8.

Emergency Order No. 03-07-13

2

September 17, 2013

### **REGULATION:**

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.025(a)(15) and (20), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU**, is superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting caribou:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(15)		
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion within the Chatanika River drainage north and west of the Steese Highway, and that portion south and east of the Steese Highway, except the Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including the Teuchet Creek drainage and except the Salcha River drainage.		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull by registration permit only, or	Aug. 29–Sept. 2	
1 caribou by registration permit only;	Dec. 1–Mar. 31	
or	(General Hunt Only)	
1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31	(Season to be announced by emergency order)	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull by registration permit only		Aug. 29–Sept. 2
Unit 20(B), that portion south and east of the Steese Highway within the Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including the Teuchet Creek drainage and the Salcha River drainage.		

## Appendix A. Page 3 of 8.

Emergency Order No. 03-07-13

3

September 17, 2013

### Units and Bag Limits

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only, or  
1 caribou by registration permit only;  
or

1 caribou by targeted permit only,  
during a season that may be announced  
by emergency order within a portion of  
the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Units 20(B) and 20(F), those  
portions north and west of the  
Steese Highway, north and east of  
the Elliott Highway to its  
intersection with the Dalton  
Highway, then east of the Dalton  
Highway and south of the Yukon  
River, excluding the Chatanika  
River drainage.

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only, or  
1 caribou by registration permit only;  
or

1 caribou by targeted permit only,  
during a season that may be announced  
by emergency order within a portion of  
the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Unit 20(D), that portion north of  
the south bank of the Tanana  
River.

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only, or

### Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

Aug. 10–Sept. 20  
Dec. 1–Mar. 31  
(General Hunt Only)

(Season to be announced  
by emergency order)

### Nonresident Open Season

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Emergency Order No. 03-07-13

4

September 17, 2013

**Units and Bag Limits**

1 caribou by registration permit only;  
or  
1 caribou by targeted permit only,  
during a season that may be announced  
by emergency order within a portion of  
the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31

**Resident**

**Open Season  
(Subsistence and  
General Hunts)**

Dec. 1–Mar. 31  
(General Hunt Only)  
(Season to be announced  
by emergency order)

**Nonresident  
Open Season**

**NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Remainder of Unit 20(B)

Aug. 10–Sept. 20  
(General hunt only)

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

1 bull

...

Unit 20(E), that portion within the  
Charley River drainage, the  
Seventymile River drainage  
upstream from and including the  
Granite Creek drainage, the North  
Fork Fortymile River drainage  
upstream from, but not including  
the Champion Creek drainage, the  
Middle Fork Fortymile River  
drainage upstream from and  
including the Joseph Creek  
drainage, the Mosquito Fork of the  
Fortymile River drainage upstream  
from and including the Wolf Creek  
drainage, and the drainages  
flowing into the Yukon River  
downstream from the confluence  
of the Seventymile and Yukon  
Rivers.

**RESIDENT HUNTERS:**

1 bull by registration permit only, or  
1 caribou by registration permit only;  
or

Aug. 10–Sept. 20  
Dec. 1–Mar. 31  
(General Hunt Only)

## Appendix A. Page 5 of 8.

Emergency Order No. 03-07-13

5

September 17, 2013

### Units and Bag Limits

1 caribou by registration permit only, during a season for up to three days that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during the period Oct. 20–Nov. 30; or

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31

### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Remainder of Unit 20(E)

### RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only, or  
1 caribou by registration permit only;  
or

1 caribou by registration permit only, during a season for up to three days that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during the period Oct. 20–Nov. 30; or

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31

### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

...

(20)

...

### Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

(Season to be announced  
by emergency order)

(Season to be announced  
by emergency order)

Aug. 29–Aug. 30  
Dec. 1–Mar. 31

(Season to be announced  
by emergency order)

(Season to be announced  
by emergency order)

### Nonresident Open Season

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Aug. 29–Aug. 30

## Appendix A. Page 6 of 8.

Emergency Order No. 03-07-13

6

September 17, 2013

### Units and Bag Limits

Unit 25(C), that portion east of the east bank of the mainstem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then east of the east bank of American Creek, excluding that portion within the drainage of the south fork of Birch Creek and excluding that portion within the Yukon–Charley Rivers National Preserve.

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only, or  
1 caribou by registration permit only;  
or

#### Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

Aug. 29–Sept. 2  
Dec. 1–Mar. 31  
(General Hunt Only)

#### Nonresident Open Season

1 caribou by targeted permit only,  
during a season that may be announced  
by emergency order within a portion of  
the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31

(Season to be announced  
by emergency order)

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 29–Sept. 2

Unit 25(C), that portion within the drainage of South Fork Birch Creek and that portion within the Yukon–Charley Rivers National Preserve.

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only, or  
1 caribou by registration permit only;  
or

Aug. 10–Sept. 20  
Dec. 1–Mar. 31  
(General Hunt Only)

1 caribou by targeted permit only,  
during a season that may be announced  
by emergency order within a portion of  
the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31

(Season to be announced  
by emergency order)

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

## Appendix A. Page 7 of 8.

Emergency Order No. 03-07-13

7

September 17, 2013

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
----------------------	---	----------------------------

Unit 25(C), that portion west of the east bank of the mainstem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then west of the east bank of American Creek.

### RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only, or  
1 caribou by registration permit only;  
or

Aug. 10–Sept. 20  
Dec. 1–Mar. 31  
(General Hunt Only)

1 caribou by targeted permit only,  
during a season that may be announced  
by emergency order within a portion of  
the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31

(Season to be announced  
by emergency order)

### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

...

All other caribou hunting regulations in Units 20 and 25 are not affected by this emergency order.

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

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. The annual harvest quota is allocated seasonally: 75% to the fall hunt and 25% to the winter hunt. The fall harvest quota is further subdivided into zones within the RC860 registration hunt area, each with its own quota. The fall 2013 quota in Zone 2, is 185 bull caribou. Fortymile caribou have been plentiful in Zone 2 during the first 24 days of the RC860 season, resulting in potential for overharvest. We expect the harvest quota for Zone 2 to be reached by the date and time of closure.

The fall 2013 quota in Zones 1 and 4 combined, is 225 bull caribou. Fortymile caribou were plentiful in Zone 1 during the first 13 days of the RC860 season. Although harvest in Zone 4 has been slow, combined harvest in Zones 1 and 4 have resulted in the quota being reached for these zones. No further fall harvest is warranted in Zone 4 for either the Fortymile or the White Mountains caribou herd. No further fall harvest of caribou under the State of Alaska season is warranted in the entire RC860 hunt area.

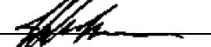


Emergency Order No. 03-07-13

8

September 17, 2013

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to:   
Jeffrey A. Gross  
Area Biologist

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution of this Emergency Order is to the following list. Copies are available from the Department of Fish and Game office in Fairbanks.

1. Lt. Governor
2. Commissioner, ADF&G
3. Assistant Attorney General
4. Division of Wildlife Conservation
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  - c. Regional Supervisors
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  - g. Wildlife Information Centers
  - h. Web Master – HQ
5. State/Federal Regulations Coordinator
  - a. Anchorage
  - b. Anchorage (Federal)
6. Division of Subsistence
  - a. Fairbanks
  - b. HQ
7. Division of Boards
  - a. Executive Director, Juneau
  - b. Boards Coordinator, Fairbanks
8. Public Communication Section
9. Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT)
  - a. Anchorage
  - b. Fairbanks
  - c. Glennallen
  - d. Tok
  - e. Galena
  - f. Delta
  - g. Cantwell
10. Local Magistrate, Tok
11. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
12. US Fish and Wildlife Service
13. US Bureau of Land Management
  - a. Anchorage
  - b. Fairbanks
14. Tanana Chiefs Conference
  - a. Fairbanks
  - b. Tok
15. US Forest Service, Chugach
16. Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge
17. Yukon-Charley National Preserve
18. Mukluk News
19. Delta Advisory Committee
20. Eagle Advisory Committee
21. Fairbanks Advisory Committee
22. Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road Advisory Committee
23. Upper Tanana-Fortymile Advisory Committee
24. Minto-Nenana Advisory Committee
25. Yukon Flats Advisory Committee
26. Central Advisory Committee
27. Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments
28. Dot Lake Village Council
29. Northway Village Council
30. Tetlin IRA Council
31. Steese Roadhouse
32. Caribou Clatters
33. Eagle Trading Post
34. Ahtna

**Appendix B. Emergency order 03-10-13 which closed the winter caribou hunt (RC867) in zone 4 at 11:59 PM 1 November 2013.**

# Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 03-10-13

**Issued at:** Fairbanks, Alaska  
October 31, 2013

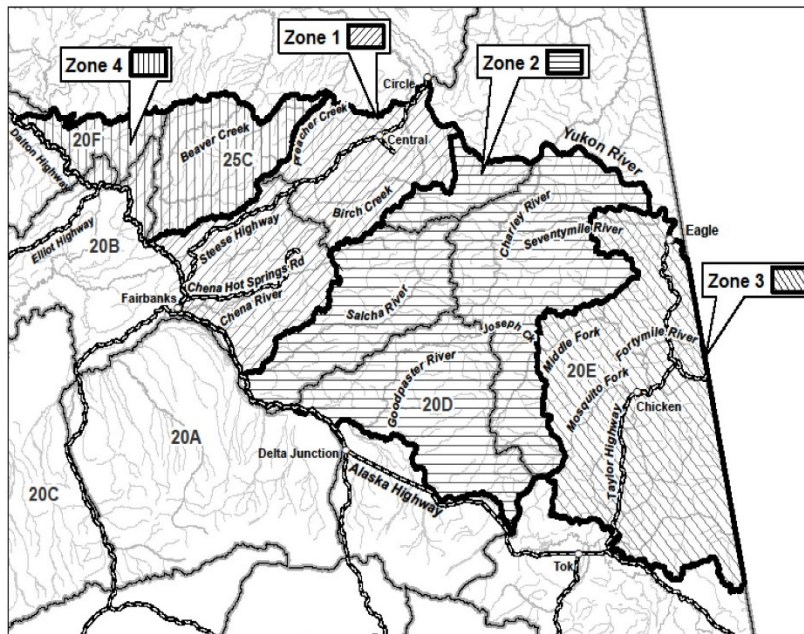
**Effective Date:** 11:59 PM  
November 1, 2013

**Expiration Date:** June 30, 2014  
unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order

**EXPLANATION:**

State registration permit hunts for the Fortymile Caribou Herd are divided into a fall and winter season. This emergency order closes the winter season, hunt RC867, in all four Fortymile Caribou Herd hunt zones in Game Management Units 20B, 20D, 20E, 20F and 25C.

No other caribou hunting regulations in Units 20 or 25 are affected by this emergency order.



**REGULATION:**

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.025(a)(15) and (20), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU**, is superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting caribou:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(15)		
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion within the Chatanika River drainage north and west of the Steese Highway, and that portion south and east of the Steese Highway, except the Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including the Teuchet Creek drainage and except the Salcha River drainage		
1 bull by registration permit only	Aug. 29–Sept. 2	Aug. 29–Sept. 2
Unit 20(B), that portion south and east of the Steese Highway within the Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including the Teuchet Creek drainage and the Salcha River drainage		
1 bull by registration permit only	Aug. 10–Sept. 20	Aug. 10–Sept. 20
Units 20(B) and 20(F), those portions north and west of the Steese Highway, north and east of the Elliott Highway to its intersection with the Dalton Highway, then east of the Dalton Highway and south of the Yukon River, excluding the Chatanika River drainage, and Unit 20(D), that portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River		
1 bull by registration permit only	Aug. 10–Sept. 20	Aug. 10–Sept. 20

## Appendix B. Page 3 of 5.

Emergency Order No. 03-10-13

3

October 31, 2013

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Remainder of Unit 20(B)		
1 bull	Aug. 10–Sept. 20 (General hunt only)	Aug. 10–Sept. 20
...		
Unit 20(E), that portion within the Charley River drainage, the Seventymile River drainage upstream from and including the Granite Creek drainage, the North Fork Fortymile River drainage upstream from, but not including the Champion Creek drainage, the Middle Fork Fortymile River drainage upstream from and including the Joseph Creek drainage, the Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River drainage upstream from and including the Wolf Creek drainage, and the drainages flowing into the Yukon River downstream from the confluence of the Seventymile and Yukon Rivers		
1 bull by registration permit only	Aug. 10–Sept. 20	Aug. 10–Sept. 20
Remainder of Unit 20(E)		
1 bull by registration permit only	Aug. 29–Aug. 30	Aug. 29–Aug. 30
...		
(20)		
...		

## Appendix B. Page 4 of 5.

Emergency Order No. 03-10-13

4

October 31, 2013

### Units and Bag Limits

Unit 25(C), that portion east of the east bank of the mainstem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then east of the east bank of American Creek, excluding that portion within the drainage of the south fork of Birch Creek and excluding that portion within the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

### Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

### Nonresident Open Season

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 29–Sept. 2

Aug. 29–Sept. 2

Remainder of Unit 25(C)

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Aug. 10–Sept. 20


...

All other caribou hunting regulations in Units 20 and 25 are not affected by this emergency order.

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

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. The annual harvest quota is allocated seasonally: 75% to the fall hunt and 25% to the winter hunt. This year's quota is 1,000 caribou: 750 bulls in the fall and 250 caribou during the RC867 winter hunt. Total harvest in fall 2013 was 1,200 caribou. Therefore, the annual quota was exceeded and no harvest of Fortymile caribou under the RC867 State of Alaska winter season is warranted in the entire Fortymile caribou hunt area.

Cora Campbell  
Commissioner

By delegation to: 

Jeffrey A. Gross  
Area Biologist

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution of this Emergency Order is to the following list. Copies are available from the Department of Fish and Game office in Fairbanks.

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  - f. Delta
  - g. Cantwell
10. Local Magistrate, Tok
11. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
12. US Fish and Wildlife Service
13. US Bureau of Land Management
  - a. Anchorage
  - b. Fairbanks
14. Tanana Chiefs Conference
  - a. Fairbanks
- b. Tok
15. US Forest Service, Chugach
16. Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge
17. Yukon–Charley National Preserve
18. Mukluk News
19. Delta Advisory Committee
20. Eagle Advisory Committee
21. Fairbanks Advisory Committee
22. Tok Cutoff/Nabesna Road Advisory Committee
23. Upper Tanana–Fortymile Advisory Committee
24. Minto-Nenana Advisory Committee
25. Yukon Flats Advisory Committee
26. Central Advisory Committee
27. Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments
28. Dot Lake Village Council
29. Northway Village Council
30. Tetlin IRA Council
31. Steese Roadhouse
32. Caribou Clatters
33. Eagle Trading Post
34. Ahtna

Appendix C. Emergency order 03-01-15 which closed the winter caribou hunt (RC867) in zone 4 at 11:59 PM 22 February 2015.

# Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

**Emergency Order No.** 03-01-15

**Issued at:** Fairbanks, Alaska  
February 19, 2015

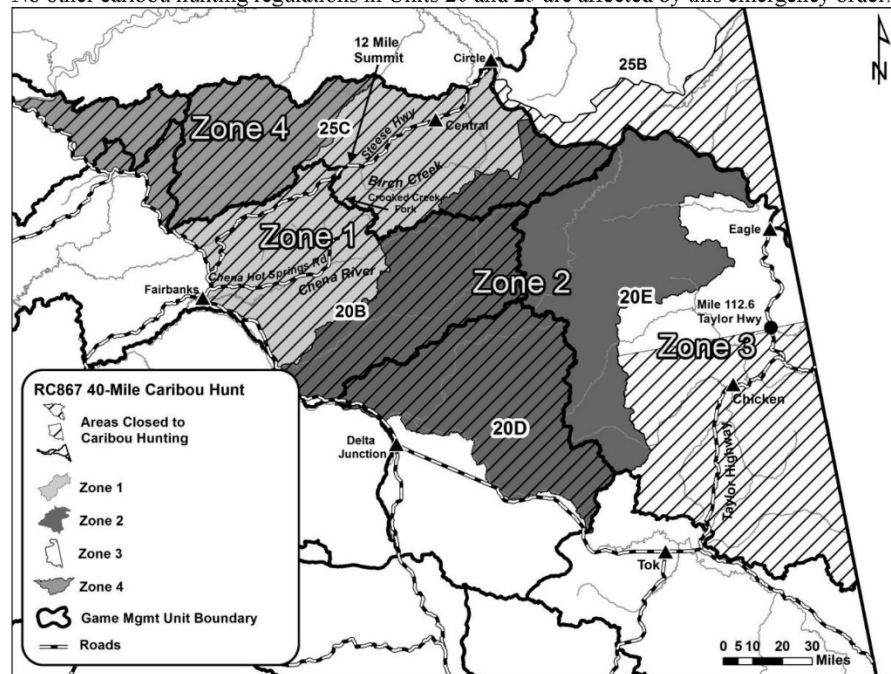
**Effective Date:** 11:59 P.M.  
February 22, 2015

**Expiration Date:** June 30, 2015  
unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order

## **EXPLANATION:**

State registration permit hunt RC867 for the Fortymile Caribou Herd is divided into 4 zones. This emergency order closes the remainder of Zone 1 (Steeze Highway-Chena Hot Springs area), the western portion of Zone 2 and all of Zone 4 in Game Management Units 20B, 20D, 20F and 25C. A previous emergency order, 03-06-14, also affected hunting the Fortymile Caribou herd.

No other caribou hunting regulations in Units 20 and 25 are affected by this emergency order.



Emergency Order No. 03-01-15

2

February 19, 2015

**REGULATION:**

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.025(a)(15) and (20), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting caribou:

<b>Units and Bag Limits (15)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion within the Chatanika River drainage east of a line following the Steese Highway from its intersection with the Richardson Highway north to its intersection with the Elliot Highway, then northwest along the Elliot Highway to the divide between the Chatanika River and Washington Creek drainages		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or	Aug. 10–Aug. 21	
1 bull by registration permit only, or	Sept. 3–Sept. 4	
1 caribou by registration permit only; or	Dec. 1–Dec. 2	
1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31	(Season to be announced by emergency order)	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or		Aug. 10–Aug. 21
1 bull by registration permit only		Sept. 3–Sept. 4



## Appendix C. Page 3 of 9.

Emergency Order No. 03-01-15

3

February 19, 2015

### Units and Bag Limits

Unit 20(B) north and east of a line following the Richardson Highway from the Unit 20(D) boundary to its intersection with the Steese Highway, north along the Steese Highway to its intersection with the Elliot Highway, then northwest along the Elliot Highway to the divide between the Chatanika River and Washington Creek drainages, except the Chatanika River drainage, and except the portion of the Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including Teuchet Creek, and except drainages into the Tanana River upstream from and including the Salcha River drainage

### Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

### Nonresident Open Season

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or

Aug. 10–Aug. 21

1 bull by registration permit only, or  
1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Sept. 3–Sept. 4  
Dec. 1–Feb. 22

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31

(Season to be announced  
by emergency order)

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or

Aug. 10–Aug. 21

1 bull by registration permit only

Sept. 3–Sept. 4

## Appendix C. Page 4 of 9.

Emergency Order No. 03-01-15

4

February 19, 2015

### Units and Bag Limits

Units 20(B) those portions north and east of a line following the Richardson Highway from the Unit 20(D) boundary to its intersection with the Steese Highway, north along the Steese Highway to its intersection with the Elliot Highway, then northwest along the Elliot Highway to its intersection with the Dalton Highway, then north along the Dalton Highway to Unit 20(B) boundary that are north of the Chatanika River drainage, that are within the Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including Teuchet Creek drainage, and that are within drainages into the Tanana River upstream from and including the Salcha River drainage, and Unit 20(D) that portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River, and Unit 20(F), that portion north and east of the Dalton Highway and south of the Yukon River

### Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

### Nonresident Open Season

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only, or  
1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10–Sept. 30  
Dec. 1–Feb. 22

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31

(Season to be announced  
by emergency order)

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Remainder of Unit 20(B)

Aug. 10–Sept. 20  
(General Hunt Only)

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

1 bull

...

## Appendix C. Page 5 of 9.

Emergency Order No. 03-01-15

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February 19, 2015

### Units and Bag Limits

Unit 20(E), that portion within the Charley River drainage, the Seventymile River drainage upstream from and including the Granite Creek drainage, the North Fork Fortymile River drainage upstream from, but not including the Champion Creek drainage, the Middle Fork Fortymile River drainage upstream from and including the Joseph Creek drainage, the Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River drainage upstream from and including the Wolf Creek drainage, and the drainages flowing into the Yukon River downstream from the confluence of the Seventymile and Yukon Rivers.

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only, or  
1 caribou by registration permit only; or

### Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

Aug. 10–Sept. 30  
Dec. 1–Mar. 31

### Nonresident Open Season

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Unit 20(E), that portion south of an east-west line that passes through milepost 112.6 of the Taylor Highway (64° 18.535' N. latitude), except the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River drainage upstream from and including the Joseph Creek drainage, and except the Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River drainage upstream from and including the Wolf Creek drainage

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or

Aug. 10–Aug. 21

1 bull by registration permit only, or  
1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Sept. 3–Sept. 30

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31

(Season to be announced  
by emergency order)

## Appendix C. Page 6 of 9.

Emergency Order No. 03-01-15	6	February 19, 2015
<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or		Aug. 10–Aug. 21
1 bull by registration permit only		Sept. 3–Sept. 20
Remainder of Unit 20(E)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or	Aug. 10–Aug. 21	
1 bull by registration permit only, or	Sept. 3–Sept. 30	
1 caribou by registration permit only; or	Dec. 1–Mar. 31	
1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31	(Season to be announced by emergency order)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or		Aug. 10–Aug. 21
1 bull by registration permit only		Sept. 3–Sept. 20
...		
(20)		
...		
Unit 25(C), that portion east of the east bank of the mainstem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then east of the east bank of American Creek, except that portion south and east of the mainstem of Birch Creek upstream to its confluence with Crooked Creek Fork, then south of the mainstem of Crooked Creek Fork		

## Appendix C. Page 7 of 9.

Emergency Order No. 03-01-15	7	February 19, 2015
	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
<b>Units and Bag Limits</b> RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or	Aug. 10–Aug. 21	
1 bull by registration permit only, or 1 caribou by registration permit only; or	Sept. 3–Sept. 4 Dec. 1–Dec. 2	
1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31	(Season to be announced by emergency order)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or		Aug. 10–Aug. 21
1 bull by registration permit only		Sept. 3–Sept. 4
Unit 25(C), that portion south and east of the mainstem of Birch Creek upstream to its confluence with Crooked Creek Fork, then south of the mainstem of Crooked Creek Fork, except that portion within the drainage of the south fork of Birch Creek and except that portion within the Yukon–Charley Rivers National Preserve.		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or	Aug. 10–Aug. 21	
1 bull by registration permit only, or 1 caribou by registration permit only; or	Sept. 3–Sept. 4 Dec. 1–Feb. 22	
1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31	(Season to be announced by emergency order)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or		Aug. 10–Aug. 21
1 bull by registration permit only		Sept. 3–Sept. 4

## Appendix C. Page 8 of 9.

Emergency Order No. 03-01-15

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February 19, 2015

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Remainder of Unit 25(C)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull by registration permit only, or	Aug. 10–Sept. 30	
1 caribou by registration permit only; or	Dec. 1–Feb. 22	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull by registration permit only		Aug. 10–Sept. 20

...

All other caribou hunting regulations in Units 20 and 25 are not affected by this emergency order.

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

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. The annual harvest quota is allocated seasonally: 75% to the fall hunt and 25%, plus any surplus from the fall quota, to the winter hunt. This winter's harvest quota is 472 caribou. 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. The winter quota for Zone 1 is 283 and the quota for Zone 3 is 189.

During this year's winter season, the herd has been primarily accessible from the Steese Highway and Chena Hot Springs Road in Zone 1. There have been very few Fortymile caribou in Zone 3 (Taylor Highway area) throughout the winter season. In addition, the southern two-thirds of Zone 3 has remained closed since the beginning of the season to protect Nelchina Herd caribou, which are not legal to harvest in this hunt. This has resulted in low harvest in Zone 3 since the state winter season opened on December 1.

To provide additional opportunity to hunt accessible Fortymile caribou, a portion of the Zone 3 quota has been re-allocated to Zone 1. However, to retain some harvest opportunity in Zone 3, the season in Zone 1, western Zone 2 and Zone 4 will be closed once the overall winter harvest reaches 422. This action will leave 50 caribou, out of the overall winter quota of 472, for hunters in the Taylor Highway area (eastern Zone 2 and Zone 3), during the remainder of the winter season.

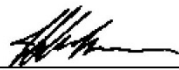
We anticipate the overall winter harvest to reach 422 by the date and time of this closure; therefore, no further winter harvest of caribou under the State of Alaska season is warranted in Zone 1, western Zone 2 and Zone 4 of the RC867 hunt area.

Emergency Order No. 03-01-15

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February 19, 2015

Sam Cotten  
Commissioner

By delegation to: 

Jeffrey A. Gross  
Area Biologist

**DISTRIBUTION:**

The distribution of this Emergency Order is to the following list. Copies are available from the Department of Fish and Game office in Fairbanks.

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    - v. Fairbanks
    - vi. Healy
    - vii. Mat-Su
    - viii. Minto-Nenana
    - ix. Tok Cutoff-Nabesna Rd
- x. Upper Tanana-Fortymile
- xi. Yukon Flats
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  - c. Nenana
  - d. Tok
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15. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park
16. Yukon-Charley National Preserve
17. Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge
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20. Ahtna
21. Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments
22. Dot Lake Village Council
23. Northway Village Council
24. Tetlin IRA Council
25. Gold Country Services
26. Eagle Trading Post

Appendix D. Emergency order 03-02-16 closed the winter caribou hunt (RC867) in zone 4 at 11:59 PM 4 March 2016.

# Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game

**Emergency Order No.** 03-02-16

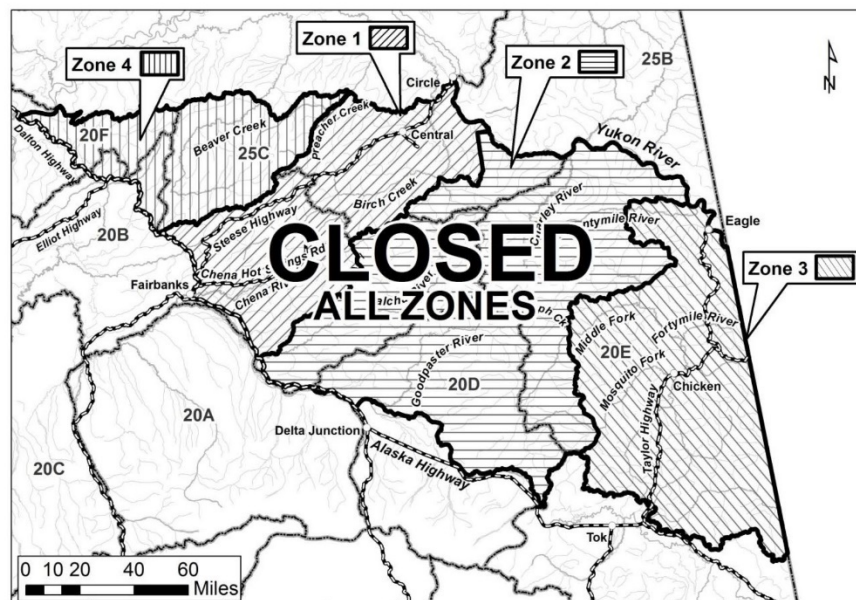
**Issued at:** Fairbanks, Alaska  
March 2, 2016

**Effective Date:** 11:59 P.M.  
March 4, 2016

**Expiration Date:** June 30, 2016  
unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order

## **EXPLANATION:**

State registration permit hunt RC867 for the Fortymile Caribou Herd is divided into 4 zones. This emergency order closes Zones 2, 3, and 4 of the Fortymile Caribou hunt area, located in portions of Game Management Units 20B, 20D, 20E, 20F and 25C. No other caribou hunting regulations in Units 20 or 25 are affected by this emergency order. Zone 1 was closed earlier by Emergency Order 03-01-16.





## Appendix D. Page 2 of 6.

Emergency Order No. 03-02-16

2

March 2, 2016

### **REGULATION:**

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.025(a)(15) and (20), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting caribou:

<b>Units and Bag Limits (15)</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion within the Chatanika River drainage north and west of the Steese Highway, and that portion south and east of the Steese Highway, except the Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including the Teuchet Creek drainage and except the Salcha River drainage.		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or	Aug. 10–Aug. 21	
1 bull by registration permit only, or 1 caribou by registration permit only; or	Aug. 30–Sept. 30 Dec. 1–Jan. 2	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or		Aug. 10–Aug. 21
1 bull by registration permit only		Aug. 30–Sept. 20

## Appendix D. Page 3 of 6.

Emergency Order No. 03-02-16

3

March 2, 2016

### Units and Bag Limits

Unit 20(B) and 20(F), those portions south of the Yukon River, and north and east of a line formed by the Richardson Highway from the Unit 20(D) boundary to its intersection with the Steese Highway, north along the Steese Highway to its intersection with the Elliot Highway, then northwest along the Elliot Highway to its intersection with the Dalton Highway, then north along the Dalton Highway to the Yukon River, excluding that portion within the Chatanika River drainage north and west of the Steese Highway, and that portion south and east of the Steese Highway, except the Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including the Teuchet Creek drainage and except the Salcha River drainage, and Unit 20(D) that portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River

### Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

### Nonresident Open Season

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or

Aug. 10–Aug. 21

1 bull by registration permit only, or  
1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10–Sept. 30  
Dec. 1–Mar. 4

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or

Aug. 10–Aug. 21

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

...

## Appendix D. Page 4 of 6.

Emergency Order No. 03-02-16

4

March 2, 2016

	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>		
Unit 20(E), that portion within the Charley River drainage, the Seventymile River drainage upstream from and including the Granite Creek drainage, the North Fork Fortymile River drainage upstream from, but not including the Champion Creek drainage, the Middle Fork Fortymile River drainage upstream from and including the Joseph Creek drainage, the Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River drainage upstream from and including the Wolf Creek drainage, and the drainages flowing into the Yukon River downstream from the confluence of the Seventymile and Yukon Rivers.		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull by registration permit only, or	Aug. 10–Sept. 30	
1 caribou by registration permit only	Dec. 1–Mar. 4	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull by registration permit only		Aug. 10–Sept. 20
Remainder of Unit 20(E)		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or	Aug. 10–Aug. 21	
1 bull by registration permit only, or	Aug. 30–Sept. 15	
1 caribou by registration permit only; or	Dec. 1–Mar. 4	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 bull per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or		Aug. 10–Aug. 21
1 bull by registration permit only		Aug. 30–Sept. 15
...		
(20)		
...		

## Appendix D. Page 5 of 6.

Emergency Order No. 03-02-16

5

March 2, 2016

### Units and Bag Limits

Unit 25(C), that portion east of the east bank of the mainstem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then east of the east bank of American Creek, excluding that portion within the drainage of the south fork of Birch Creek and excluding that portion within the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve.

### Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)

### Nonresident Open Season

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or

Aug. 10–Aug. 21

1 bull by registration permit only, or  
1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 30–Sept. 30  
Dec. 1–Jan. 2

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or

Aug. 10–Aug. 21

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 30–Sept. 20

Remainder of Unit 25(C)

#### RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only, or  
1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10–Sept. 30  
Dec. 1–Mar. 4

#### NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or

Aug. 10–Aug. 21

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

...

All other caribou hunting regulations in Units 20 and 25 are not affected by this emergency order.

### **JUSTIFICATION:**

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. The annual harvest quota is

## Appendix D. Page 6 of 6.

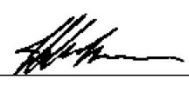
Emergency Order No. 03-02-16

6

March 2, 2016

allocated seasonally: 75% to the fall hunt and 25%, plus any surplus from the fall quota, to the winter hunt. 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. This winter's total harvest quota was 298 caribou, of which 198 was allocated to the Zone 1 quota and 100 was allocated to the Zone 3 quota. We expect the quota for all zones to be reached by the date and time of this closure.

Sam Cotten  
Commissioner

By delegation to: 

Jeffrey A. Gross  
Area Biologist

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