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Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: Monday, July 15, 2024

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New Fortymile Caribou Hunt Quota

(Tok, Alaska) –Using the results from last summer’s photocensus, along with composition, reproductive and survival data collected over the past year, the Department developed a modeled estimate of the current size of the Fortymile caribou herd to set this year’s hunt quota. Models indicate the herd has continued to decline since last summer. The estimated mid-summer herd size is 28,000 – 34,000.

To allow for hunting opportunity but minimize the risk of reducing the population more than desired, the annual harvest quota for the herd will remain at a reduced level this year. The annual quota for the 2024-2025 hunting seasons will be set at 565 bulls only (no cow harvest), with a pre-season allocation of 425 bulls for the fall hunt (for all zones) and 140 bulls for the winter hunt. Zone allocations for the fall hunt will be:

Zone	Quota
1 & 4 combined (Steese Hwy area)	195
Zone 2 (Roadless area)	100
Zone 3 (Taylor Highway area)	130

These are reduced quotas from previous years and could result in delayed season openings and shorter seasons than in previous years. If quotas are met early, season closures could be announced by emergency order on short notice. The bag limit for resident and non-resident hunters hunting in the State of Alaska fall registration hunt (RC860) for Fortymile caribou will remain 1 bull in all Zones (1–4). The hunt is scheduled to open in all Zones (1–4) on Sunday, August 11, 2024, at 12:01 a.m., as specified in the 2024-2025 Alaska Hunting Regulations. However, hunters should anticipate that the fall season will likely be delayed in one or more road accessible zones, to avoid overharvest, if large numbers of caribou are accessible near roads prior to the scheduled season opening. Delays will be announced at least 5-7 days prior to the scheduled opening date. Permits will be available July 16th online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> and in person in Tok, Delta Junction, Eagle, Fairbanks, Central, Glennallen, Douglas, Anchorage, and Palmer.

Hunters are reminded to call the Fortymile Caribou Herd Hotline (907) 267-2310 for updates about delayed hunt openings and zone closures before departing for the field. The hotline will be updated regularly, with current zone harvest and other new information as it becomes available.

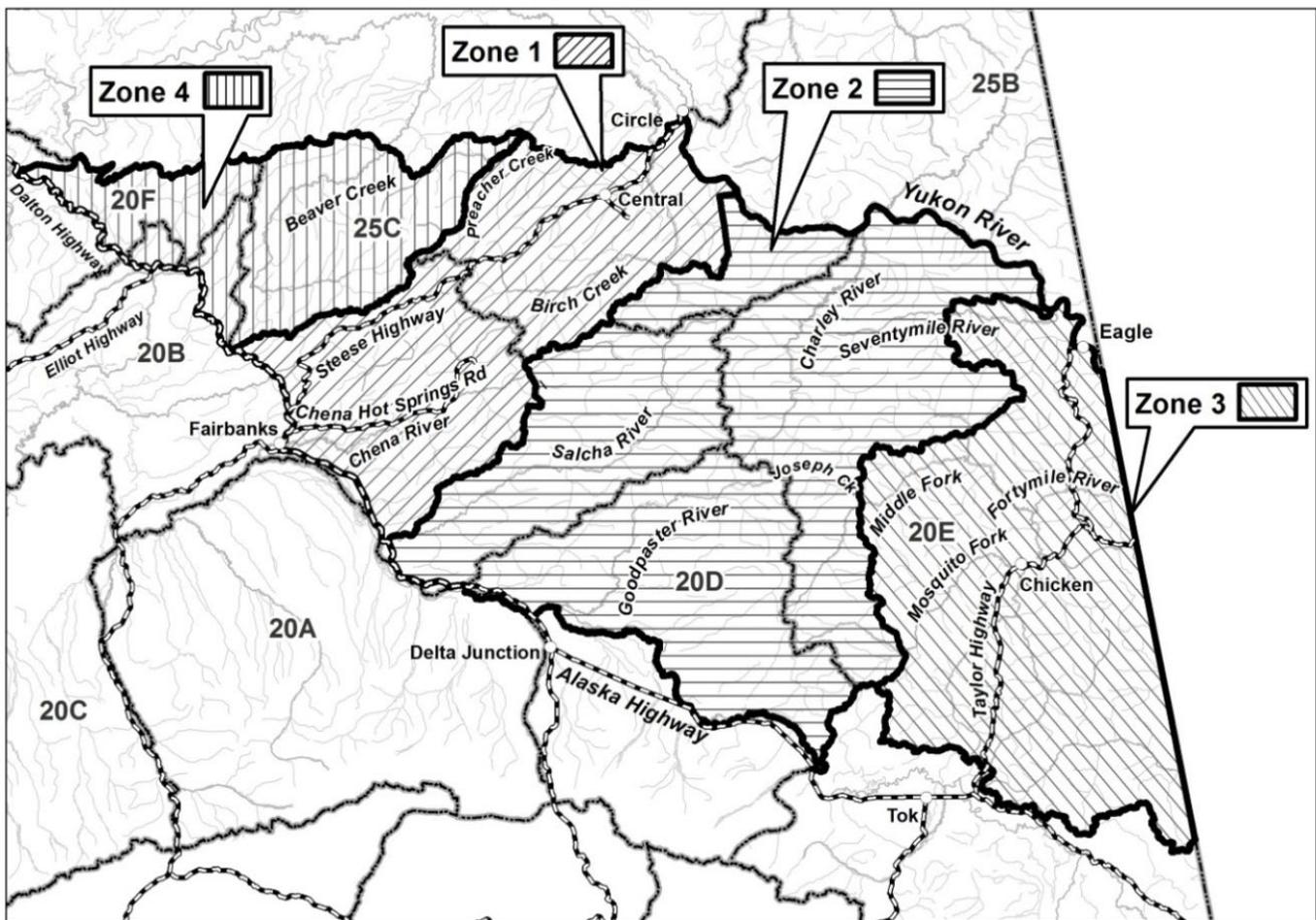
These seasons and bag limits only apply to state caribou hunts in these areas. Hunters with questions about federal subsistence regulations should call (800) 478-1456.

Successful hunters must report within three days of the kill online at (<http://hunt.alaska.gov>), by phone (907-883-2971), or in person at the ADF&G office in Tok. 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 eligible to receive any permits (Draw, Targeted, Tier II, or Registration, including Tier I Nelchina caribou) during the next regulatory year, and may be cited.

A successful photocensus conducted on June 28, 2024, will be finalized prior to the winter hunt opening. Both the winter season and bag limit will be re-evaluated once the results of this summer’s photocensus are finalized and harvest analysis of the fall hunting season is complete.



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