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NEWS RELEASE

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Taylor Highway Caribou Season Closed in Unit 20E

The State of Alaska fall hunting season for Fortymile caribou in areas accessible from the Taylor Highway in Zone 3 will close at 11:59 p.m. Tuesday night, September 15, 2015.

Caribou are abundant in Zone 3 along the Taylor Highway, and harvest is expected to reach the fall quota of 340 bulls in that zone.

Caribou are also abundant in Zone 2 (located in parts of Unit 20B, 20D north of the Tanana River, and western 20E), but access is more difficult in this area. Caribou are widely scattered in Zones 1 (Steese Highway area) and 4 (White Mountains). These three areas remain open at this time. The fall quota for Zones 1 and 4 combined is 225 bulls, and for Zone 2 is 185 bulls.

State hunting seasons for Fortymile caribou opened on August 10 in Zones 2 and 4, and on August 30 in Zones 1 and 3. The fall bag limit for all zones is one bull for all hunters.

Caribou movements during fall are largely unpredictable, and areas are often closed to prevent an overharvest when large groups of caribou gather near roads or other easily accessible areas. 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.

This closure only affects state land. Federally-qualified subsistence hunters may continue to hunt on federal land in the entire hunt area. Hunters with questions about federal subsistence regulations should call 800-478-1456.

Successful hunters must report within three days of a kill on the internet at <http://hunt.alaska.gov>, or in person or by phone to the ADF&G office in Tok (907-883-2971). 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 Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan guides harvest of the herd from 2012 to 2018, and regulations are based on the plan. Management is designed to allow the Fortymile herd to continue to grow and expand into its former range in Alaska and Yukon. At about 50,000 animals, the Fortymile herd is the largest caribou herd in Interior Alaska.

