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NEWS RELEASE

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Part of Winter Fortymile Caribou Season to Close

The State of Alaska winter hunting season for Fortymile caribou under Registration Hunt RC867 will close on lands accessible from the Steese Highway and Chena Hot Springs Road in Units 20B and 25C (all of Zone 1), at 11:59 p.m. Saturday night, December 3, 2016.

“Fortymile caribou are abundant in Zone 1, which is expected to result in high harvest success and the Zone 1 harvest quota being reached in the first 3 days,” said Tok Area Biologist Jeff Gross.

The overall winter quota is 630 caribou, of which 380 is allocated to the Zone 1 quota, and 250 is allocated to the Zone 3 quota. With very few caribou present in Zone 3 harvest is expected to be low in that zone. Zones 2, 3, and 4 will remain open to caribou hunting under RC867.

“After the 3-day season in Zone 1, harvest reports will be tallied and if any Zone 1 quota remains portions of the zone may reopen” said Gross.

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.

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. 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.

