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## **NEWS RELEASE**

**Friday, November 24, 2017**

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### **Fortymile Caribou Season to Reopen Near Steese Highway**

The State of Alaska winter hunting season for Fortymile Caribou under Registration Hunt RC867 will reopen in areas accessible from the Steese Highway and Chena Hot Springs Road (Zone 1) in the Fortymile Caribou hunt area, beginning at 12:01 a.m. Saturday, November 25, 2017.

“Harvest was slower than expected during the earlier November 17–20 opening in zone 1. There are over 400 caribou left in the zone 1 quota, so we are reopening the hunt to provide hunters the opportunity to harvest the remainder of the quota”, 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.

“Although fewer caribou are right along the Steese Highway than a week ago, similar numbers remain in the zone, primarily north of the highway” Gross said.

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.

