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NEWS

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Fortymile Caribou Season to Close on Steese Highway

The State of Alaska fall hunting season for Fortymile caribou in areas accessible from the Steese Highway in Zone 1 will close after five days of hunting at 11:59 p.m. Monday night, September 2, 2013.

Last Friday Zone 3 (accessible from the Taylor Highway) was closed by emergency order because large numbers of caribou were easily accessible. In spite of limiting the Zone 3 season to two days the harvest quota of 340 bulls was exceeded when hunters took more than 400.

According to Area Biologist Jeff Gross, "The caribou are moving westward. We exceeded the quota in Zone 3, and need to be careful and not exceed the quota in Zone 1"

The combined quota for Zone 1 and Zone 4 (in the White Mountains) is 225 bulls. Department staff expects harvest to be close to the quota by Monday night.

Hunting remains open in Zone 2 (roadless area between the Taylor and Steese Highways) and Zone 4, where access is more difficult and hunting pressure is lower.

Caribou movements during fall are largely unpredictable. 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.

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> 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 closure affects only state hunting regulations. Federally-qualified subsistence hunters will be allowed to continue to hunt on federal land in the entire hunt area. Hunters with questions about federal subsistence regulations should call (800) 478-1456

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.

