

Division of Wildlife Conservation
Bruce Dale, Director
Headquarters
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Sam Cotten, Commissioner
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

NEWS RELEASE

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

CONTACT: Jeff Gross, 907-883-2971

Fortymile Caribou Season in Zone 4 (White Mountains) to Close; Zones 1 and 4 to remain closed in September

The State of Alaska fall registration hunt (RC860) for Fortymile caribou in Zone 4 in the White Mountains area, north of the Steese Highway will close on Friday, August 31, 2018 at 11:59 pm and is scheduled to remain closed through September.

The caribou hunting season in Zone 1, accessible from the Steese Highway and Chena Hot Springs road, closed earlier, on August 14, and also will remain closed throughout September.

The prehunt harvest quota for Zones 1 and 4 combined was 530 bulls, but a portion of the Zone 3 quota was reallocated to Zone 1 because a large portion of the Fortymile herd was available from the Steese highway and harvest was expected to be high. More than 900 caribou were harvested in Zone 1 during the August 12-14 season. Zone 4 was left open to allow for additional hunting opportunity through August in this more remote zone north of the Steese Highway. However, with nearly 1,000 bulls harvested in Zones 1 and 4 combined to date, no further harvest is warranted in these zones at this time. Closure of Zone 4 also limits harvest of the much smaller White Mountains caribou herd.

Caribou movements during fall are largely unpredictable, and seasons may be closed in other zones to keep the harvest within the harvest quota. 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.

The state hunting season is scheduled to remain open in Zone 2 (a remote area) and Zone 3 (Taylor Highway area), unless closed by emergency order at a later date.

Caribou are abundant in Zone 2 and widely scattered at low densities in portions of Zone 3.

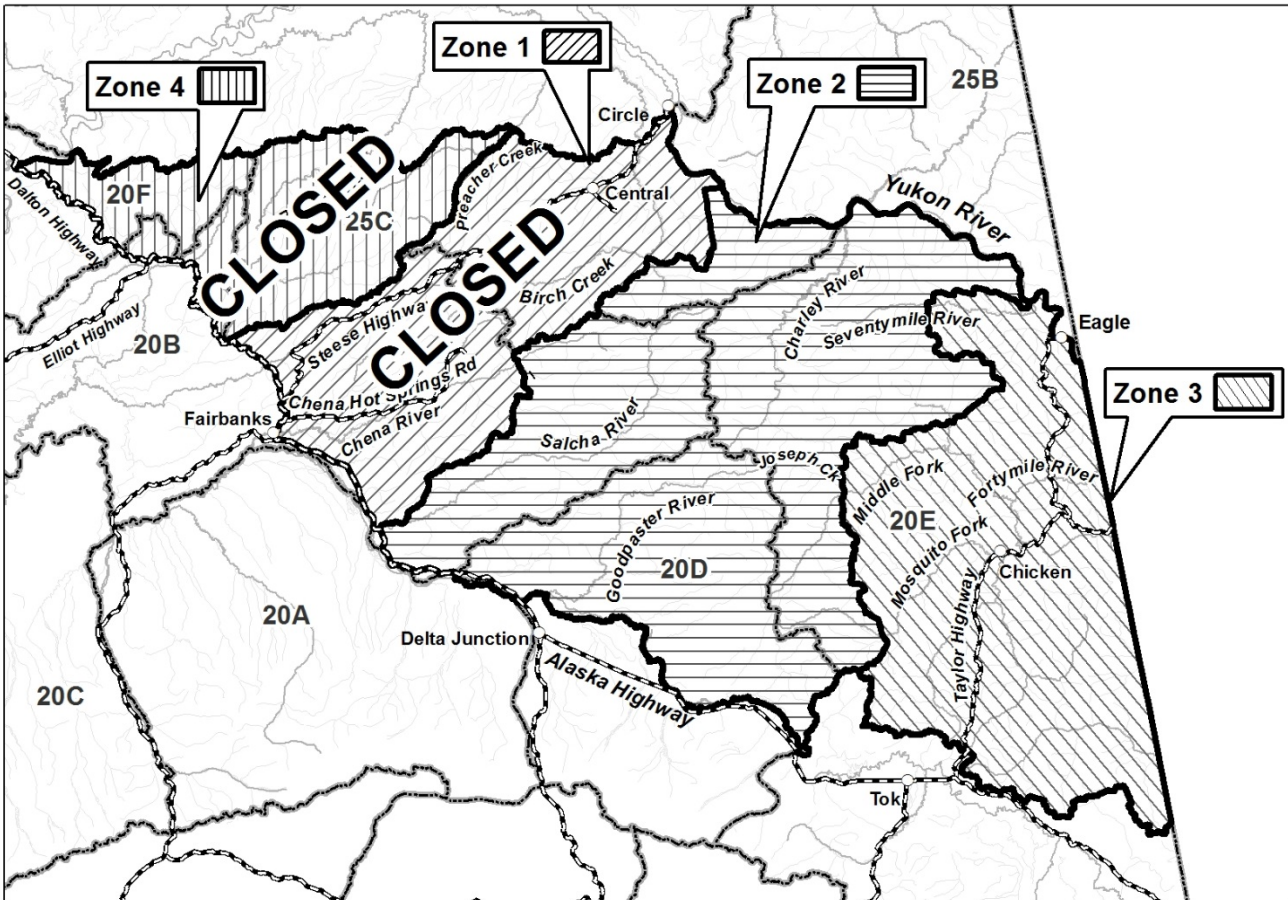
The annual Fortymile quota is 2,030 caribou, with 1,525 allocated to the fall hunt and 505 to the winter hunt. The fall bag limit is 1 bull for all hunters in August, but will change to 1 caribou (bull or cow) in Zones 2 and 3 during September for resident hunters. The nonresident hunter bag limit will remain 1 bull.

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> 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 Alaska Board of Game endorsed the Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan (harvest plan) as a means of guiding harvest of the herd from 2012 through 2018. The harvest plan allocates all available Fortymile Herd harvest to a hunt area, divided into 4 Zones, south of the Yukon River in portions of Units 20B, 20D, 20F and all of Units 20E and 25C. 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 78,000 animals, the Fortymile Herd is the largest caribou herd in Interior Alaska.



###