

Cora Campbell, Commissioner



Public Communications
P.O. Box 25526
Juneau, Alaska 99802-5526
(907) 465-6167

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

NEWS

Saturday, August 25, 2012

CONTACT: Jeff Gross (907) 883-2971

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 one day of hunting at 11:59 p.m. Wednesday night, August 29, 2012.

Caribou are abundant in Zone 1 and harvest during the first day of the season may reach the quota of 225 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) and widely scattered in Zones 3 (Taylor Highway area) and 4 (White Mountains).

State hunting seasons for Fortymile caribou opened on August 10 in Zones 2 and 4, and will open as scheduled on August 29 in Zone 3. ADF&G staff is monitoring the hunt carefully to make sure the quota is not exceeded in these zones.

Caribou movements during fall are largely unpredictable. Unexpected aggregations adjacent to the Steese Highway in Zone 1 may require additional changes prior to the hunt opening to prevent overharvest. 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.

Federally-qualified subsistence hunters will be allowed to continue to hunt on federal land in the entire hunt area.

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.

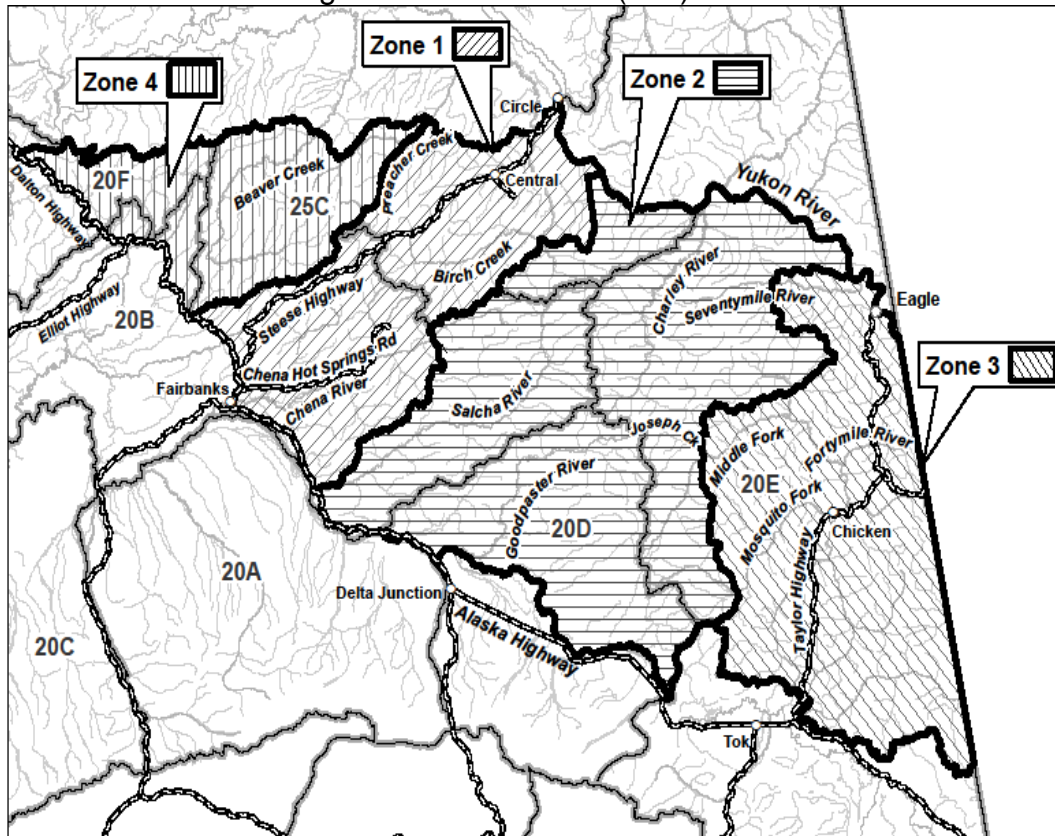
Hunters are urged to obtain a receipt when they turn in their hunt reports or to mail them by delivery confirmation receipt. Permit holders who fail to report will

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 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.

The closure affects only state hunting regulations. Hunters with questions about federal subsistence regulations should call (800) 478-1456.



###