

Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 03-03-14

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska
June 26, 2014

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M.
July 1, 2014

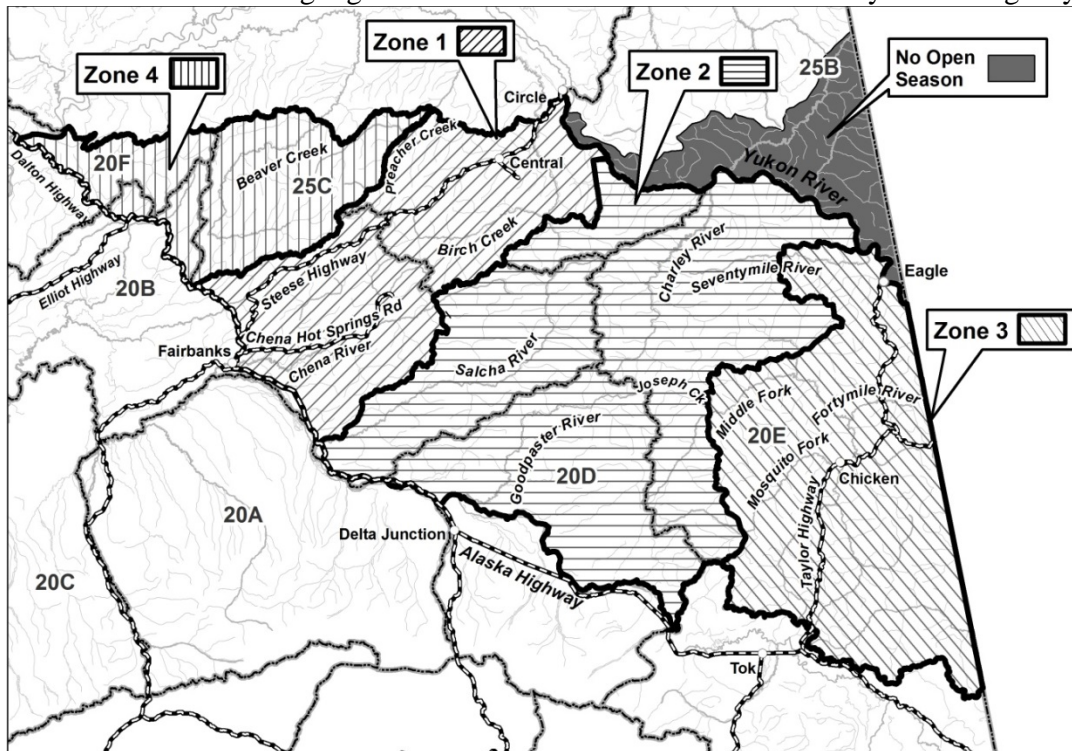
Expiration Date: June 30, 2015
unless superseded by subsequent
Emergency order

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order cancels the caribou season in southern Unit 25B and delays the opening of the fall season in Zones 1 and 3 in portions of units 20B, 20E, 20F and 25C to prevent over harvest of the Fortymile Caribou Herd. Zone 1 is accessible from the Steese Highway and Chena Hot Springs Road and Zone 3 is accessible from the Taylor Highway.

The 2014 fall season in Zones 1 and 3 is being delayed by 5 days, to avoid the Labor Day weekend. This delay is intended to minimize the risk of over harvest, increase the likelihood of a longer fall season in these zones and maintain the harvest quota for the 2014-2015 winter season.

No other caribou hunting regulations in Units 20 and 25 are affected by this emergency order.



REGULATION:

Therefore, the following regulations in **5AAC 85.025(a)(20), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU**, is superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting caribou:

Units and Bag Limits (15)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
Unit 20(B), that portion within the Chatanika River drainage north and west of the Steese Highway, and that portion south and east of the Steese Highway, except the Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including the Teuchet Creek drainage and except the Salcha River drainage.		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or	Aug. 10–Aug. 21	
1 bull by registration permit only, or 1 caribou by registration permit only; or	Sept. 3–Sept. 30 Dec. 1–Mar. 31 (General Hunt Only)	
1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31	(Season to be announced by emergency order)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or		Aug. 10–Aug. 21
1 bull by registration permit only		Sept. 3–Sept. 20
Unit 20(B), that portion south and east of the Steese Highway within the Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including the Teuchet Creek drainage and the Salcha River drainage.		

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only, or 1 caribou by registration permit only	Aug. 10–Sept. 30 Dec. 1–Mar. 31 (General Hunt Only)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only		Aug. 10–Sept. 20
Units 20(B) and 20(F), those portions north and west of the Steese Highway, north and east of the Elliott Highway to its intersection with the Dalton Highway, then east of the Dalton Highway and south of the Yukon River, excluding the Chatanika River drainage.		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only, or 1 caribou by registration permit only	Aug. 10–Sept. 30 Dec. 1–Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only		Aug. 10–Sept. 20
Remainder of Unit 20(B) 1 bull	Aug. 10–Sept. 20	Aug. 10–Sept. 20
Unit 20D, that portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only, or 1 caribou by registration permit only	Aug. 10–Sept. 30 Dec. 1–Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only		Aug. 10–Sept. 20
...		

Units and Bag Limits

Unit 20(E), that portion within the Charley River drainage, the Seventymile River drainage upstream from and including the Granite Creek drainage, the North Fork Fortymile River drainage upstream from, but not including the Champion Creek drainage, the Middle Fork Fortymile River drainage upstream from and including the Joseph Creek drainage, the Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River drainage upstream from and including the Wolf Creek drainage, and the drainages flowing into the Yukon River downstream from the confluence of the Seventymile and Yukon Rivers.

**Resident
Open Season
(Subsistence and
General Hunts)**

**Nonresident
Open Season**

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only, or
1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Aug. 10–Sept. 30
Dec. 1–Mar. 31

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull by registration permit only

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Remainder of Unit 20(E)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth
hunt drawing permit only; or

Aug. 10–Aug. 21

1 bull by registration permit only, or
1 caribou by registration permit only; or

Sept. 3–Sept. 30
Dec. 1–Mar. 31

1 caribou by registration permit only,
during a season for up to three days that
may be announced by emergency order
within a portion of the area during the
period Oct. 20–Nov. 30; or

(Season to be announced
by emergency order)

1 caribou by targeted permit only, during
a season that may be announced by
emergency order within a portion of the
area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31

(Season to be announced
by emergency order)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or		Aug. 10–Aug. 21
1 bull by registration permit only		Sept. 3–Sept. 20
...		
(20)		
...		
Unit 25(B), those drainages flowing into the Yukon River upstream from and including Fourteenmile Creek	No open season.	No open season.
Units 25(A), those portions east of the east bank of the East Fork Chandalar River extending from its confluence with the Chandalar River upstream to Gilbeau Pass, Unit 25(B) remainder, and Unit 25(D), excluding the drainage of the west fork of the Dall River west of 150° W. Long.		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
10 caribou	July 1–Apr. 30	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:		
2 bulls		Aug. 1–Sept. 30
...		
Unit 25(C), that portion east of the east bank of the mainstem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then east of the east bank of American Creek, excluding that portion within the drainage of the south fork of Birch Creek and excluding that portion within the Yukon–Charley Rivers National Preserve.		

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or	Aug. 10–Aug. 21	
1 bull by registration permit only, or 1 caribou by registration permit only; or	Sept. 3–Sept. 30 Dec. 1–Mar. 31	
1 caribou by targeted permit only, during a season that may be announced by emergency order within a portion of the area during Dec. 1–Mar. 31	(Season to be announced by emergency order)	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull, per lifetime of a hunter, by youth hunt drawing permit only; or		Aug. 10–Aug. 21
1 bull by registration permit only		Sept. 3–Sept. 20
Unit 25(C), that portion within the drainage of South Fork Birch Creek and that portion within the Yukon–Charley Rivers National Preserve.		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only, or 1 caribou by registration permit only; or	Aug. 10–Sept. 30 Dec. 1–Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only		Aug. 10–Sept. 20
Unit 25(C), that portion west of the east bank of the mainstem of Preacher Creek to its confluence with American Creek, then west of the east bank of American Creek.		
RESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only, or 1 caribou by registration permit only	Aug. 10–Sept. 30 Dec. 1–Mar. 31	
NONRESIDENT HUNTERS: 1 bull by registration permit only		Aug. 10–Sept. 20
...		

All other caribou hunting regulations in Units 20 and 25 are not affected by this emergency order.

JUSTIFICATION:

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 25C and all of Unit 20E.

During the fall of 2013, a combination of significant numbers of Fortymile Caribou congregated along the road systems in Zones 1 (Steese Highway) and 3 (Taylor Highway), and heavy participation by hunters over the Labor Day weekend, resulted in rapid harvest and the entire annual quota being exceeded in a few days. Because of this excess harvest, the fall season in Zones 1 and 3 was short and the 2013-2014 winter season was cancelled in the entire hunt area.

The 2014 fall season in Zones 1 and 3 is being delayed by 5 days, to avoid the Labor Day weekend. This delay is intended to minimize the risk of over harvest, increase the likelihood of a longer fall season in these zones and maintain quota for the 2014-2015 winter season.

In addition, during late-September 2013, the Fortymile Caribou Herd made a sudden movement north of the Yukon River into southern Unit 25B. The long seasons and liberal bag limits for caribou in Unit 25B was designed to accommodate migratory patterns of the much larger Porcupine Caribou Herd, which rarely approaches the Yukon River in the southern portion of the unit. This fall 2013 movement by the Fortymile Herd prompted managers to close the caribou season in southern Unit 25B to prevent over harvest of Fortymile Herd caribou.

It is likely the Fortymile Herd will repeat this movement pattern into southern Unit 25B sometime during the 2014-2015 hunting season. Currently there is no Fortymile Caribou Herd harvest allocated to Unit 25B. The caribou hunting season is being closed in southern Unit 25B to prevent over harvest of the Fortymile herd.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____


Jeffrey A. Gross
Area Biologist

DISTRIBUTION:

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17. Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge
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19. Tanana Chiefs Conference
20. Ahtna
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