



Advisory Announcement

For Immediate Release: Date of Release

Macomb Caribou Numbers Decline, Prompt Reduced Harvest; Abbreviated Hunting Season Expected

(DELTA JUNCTION) – Hunters planning to pursue the Macomb caribou herd in August under an RC835 permit are advised that the harvest quota has been reduced and an abbreviated hunting season is likely.

The harvest quota for the registration hunt has been reduced from 60 bull caribou to 30 bull caribou based on reduced numbers observed during aerial surveys last fall and again this spring. These surveys indicated that the population is on the lower end of the Intensive Management Objective for this herd, which is 600–800 animals. This is likely another residual effect of the 2021–2022 winter that covered the area in near-record snow and a 2-inch layer of ice, which also had an impact on other game populations in the area. A harvest quota of 30 bull caribou allows for some harvest during the walk-in portion of the hunt, particularly for subsistence needs that are identified in regulation, while ensuring conservation of this small resident herd during a low phase in population size.

The hunt is scheduled to open on August 10th and will be closed by emergency order when the harvest quota of 30 bull caribou is met. Biologists expect the closure will occur prior to August 26th, when motorized access in the Delta Controlled Use Area would otherwise be allowed.

“We know many people look forward to the two days of motorized hunting in the Delta Controlled Use Area for the Macomb herd, but that’s very unlikely to happen this year,” said Area Biologist, Bob Schmidt. “People come from all over the state to hunt this herd, so we want to get the word out early so that people can make alternate plans.”

The Macomb caribou herd occupies the eastern Alaska Range between the Delta River and Yerrick Creek south of the Alaska Highway. Since the early 1970s, the herd’s numbers have ranged from 350 to 1,800 animals. The Macomb herd is managed for a fall population of 600–800 with a sustainable harvest of 30–70 caribou.

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