

Cora Campbell, Commissioner



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

Alaska Department of Fish and Game

NEWS

Wednesday, March 2, 2011

CONTACT: Cathie Harms (907) 459-7231

Fortymile Caribou Season Reopened in Eastern Alaska

Most of the State of Alaska winter hunting season for Fortymile caribou (RC867) will reopen March 5 at 12:01 am and remain open until the remaining quota of 126 caribou is taken or until March 31, whichever comes first.

The area south of Milepost 60 on the Taylor Highway will not reopen because animals from the Nelchina Caribou Herd are present in that part of Unit 20E.

Permits that have already been issued to hunters are still valid for this season (RC867). Additional permits are available on line at https://secure.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=interperm.issue_permit_shop_next

“The quota hasn’t been reached, and 126 more caribou can be taken. We’re hopeful the weather will cooperate this month,” said Tok Area Biologist Jeff Gross.

The Fortymile winter hunting season in land accessible from the Taylor Highway and the roadless area west of the Taylor Highway (Zones 2 and 3) opened December 1. The area accessible from the Steese Highway (Zone 1) remained closed for several weeks because most of the herd was gathered nearby, and managers believed the winter quota of 340 animals could have been exceeded within a very short time.

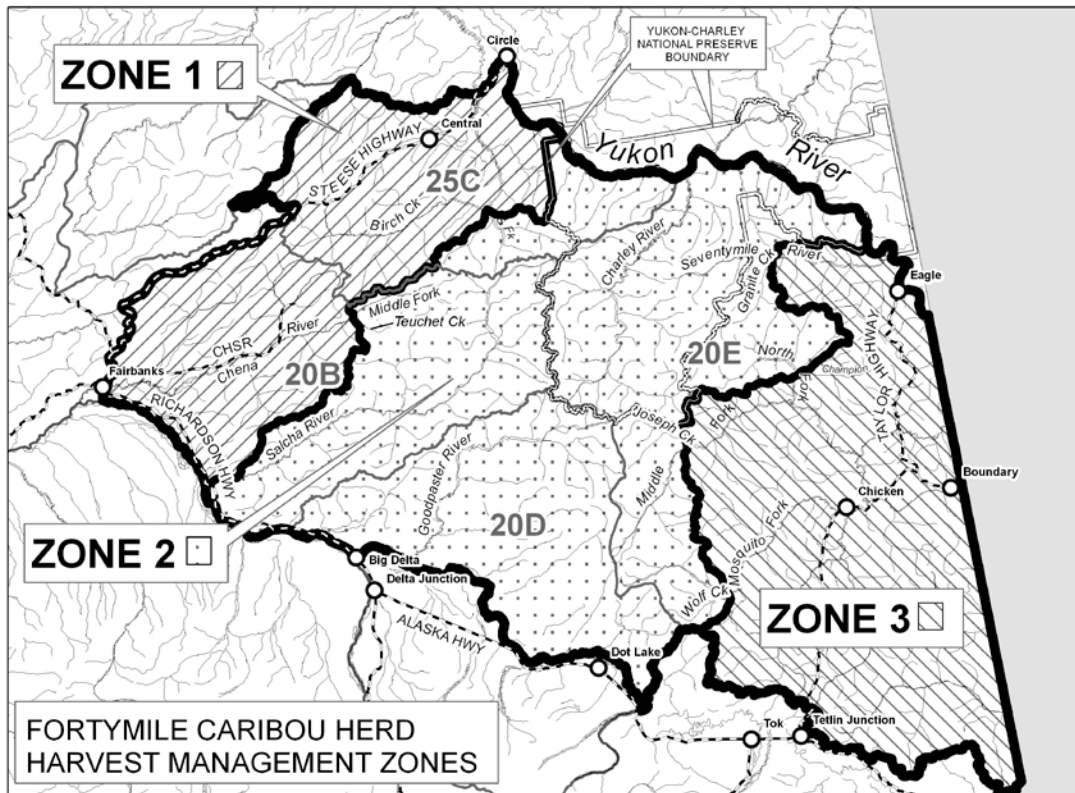
Caribou remained near the Steese for more than a month. Portions of Zone 1 near the Steese were opened but harvest was low. All of Zone 1 was opened February 19 but snowy weather and winds have prevented many hunters from being successful.

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> within 15 days of the end of the season.

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 II permits next year, and may be cited for a violation of the Alaska hunting regulations.

Management is designed to allow the Fortymile herd to continue to grow and expand into its former range in Alaska and Yukon. At about 51,000 animals, the Fortymile herd is the largest caribou herd in Interior Alaska.

Hunters with questions about the state season should call the Fortymile Hotline at (907) 267-2310.



###