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NEWS

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Fortymile Caribou Season Closed on Taylor Highway

The State of Alaska fall hunting season for Fortymile caribou in areas accessible from the Taylor Highway in Zone 3, will close after five days of hunting at 11:59 P.M. Sunday night, September 2, 2012.

Three days into the hunt, hunters have taken over half the quota in Zone 3, and harvest remains steady. The quota for Zone 3 is 340 bulls.

"Only moderate numbers of caribou were available, but hunters in the Taylor Highway area have had success and harvest has been constant since the August 29th opening. We expect the quota in Zone 3 along the Taylor to be met by Sunday night," said Tok Area Biologist Jeff Gross.

Hunting for Fortymile caribou, regulated by joint state-federal registration permit hunt RC860, opened on August 10th in Zones 2 and 4 and on August 29th in Zones 1, and 3.

The State of Alaska hunt for Fortymile caribou will close in Zone 3. Zone 1 closed on August 29 after one day of hunting and includes lands accessible from the Steese Highway in Units 20B and 25C. Zone 3 includes lands accessible from the Taylor Highway in central and eastern Unit 20E.

State hunting seasons for Fortymile caribou remain open in Zone 2 (located in parts of Unit 20B, 20D north of the Tanana River, and western 20E) and Zone 4 (located in eastern Unit 20F and western Unit 25C). ADF&G staff is monitoring the hunt carefully to make sure the quota is not exceeded in Zones 2 and 4.

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

Hunters who have not taken a caribou will be able to continue to hunt in Zones 2 and 4. 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 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.

