

Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 03-01-15

Issued at: Fairbanks, Alaska
February 19, 2015

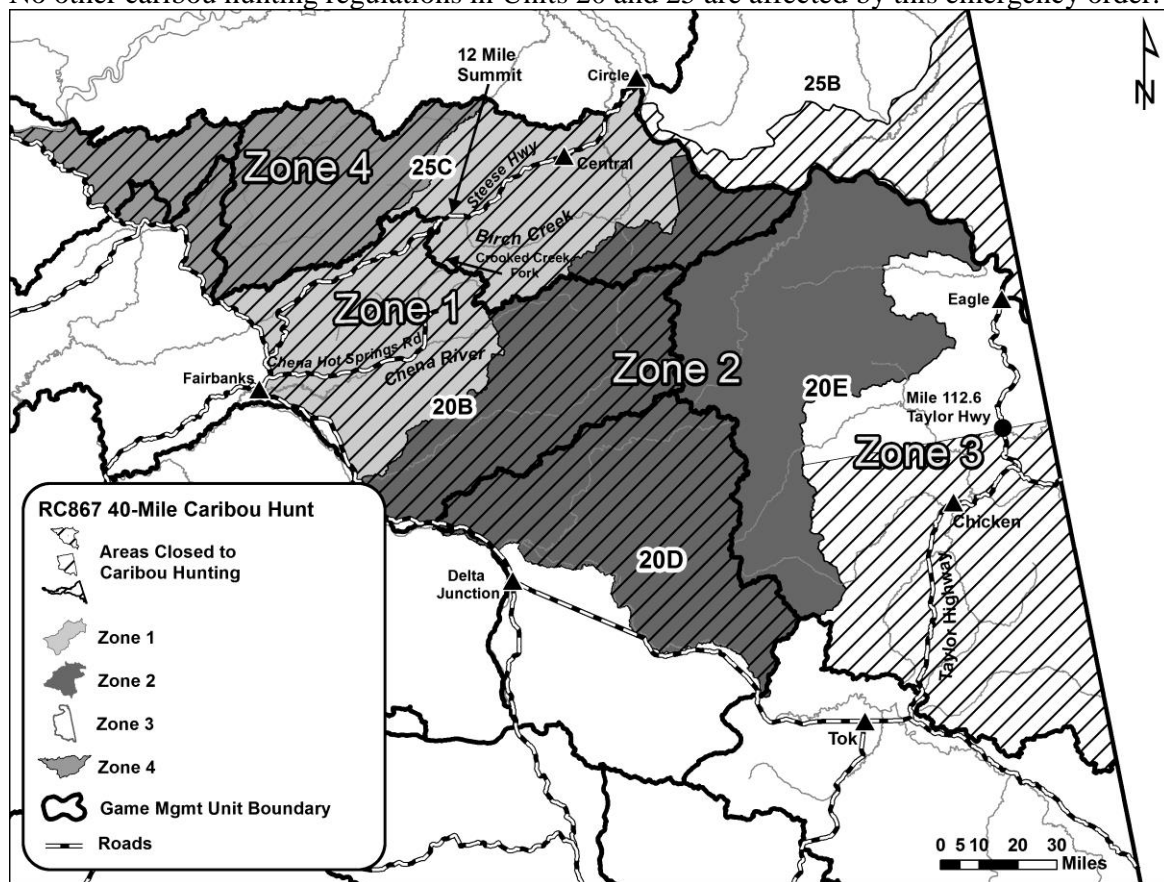
Effective Date: 11:59 P.M.
February 22, 2015

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unless superseded by subsequent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

EXPLANATION:

State registration permit hunt RC867 for the Fortymile Caribou Herd is divided into 4 zones. This emergency order closes the remainder of Zone 1 (Steese Highway-Chena Hot Springs area), the western portion of Zone 2 and all of Zone 4 in Game Management Units 20B, 20D, 20F and 25C. A previous emergency order, 03-06-14, also affected hunting the Fortymile Caribou herd.

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the following regulations in **5AAC 85.025(a)(15) and (20), HUNTING SEASONS AND BAG LIMITS FOR CARIBOU**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective for hunting caribou: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 east of a line following the Steese Highway from its intersection with the Richardson Highway north to its intersection with the Elliot Highway, then northwest along the Elliot Highway to the divide between the Chatanika River and Washington Creek drainages		
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. 4 Dec. 1–Dec. 2	
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. 4

Units and Bag Limits

Unit 20(B) north and east of a line following the Richardson Highway from the Unit 20(D) boundary to its intersection with the Steese Highway, north along the Steese Highway to its intersection with the Elliot Highway, then northwest along the Elliot Highway to the divide between the Chatanika River and Washington Creek drainages, except the Chatanika River drainage, and except the portion of the Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including Teuchet Creek, and except drainages into the Tanana River upstream from and including the Salcha River drainage

**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. 4
Dec. 1–Feb. 22

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. 4

Units and Bag Limits

Units 20(B) those portions north and east of a line following the Richardson Highway from the Unit 20(D) boundary to its intersection with the Steese Highway, north along the Steese Highway to its intersection with the Elliot Highway, then northwest along the Elliot Highway to its intersection with the Dalton Highway, then north along the Dalton Highway to Unit 20(B) boundary that are north of the Chatanika River drainage, that are within the Middle (East) Fork of the Chena River drainage upstream from and including Teuchet Creek drainage, and that are within drainages into the Tanana River upstream from and including the Salcha River drainage, and Unit 20(D) that portion north of the south bank of the Tanana River, and Unit 20(F), that portion north and east of the Dalton Highway and south of the Yukon River

**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–Feb. 22

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 by registration permit only

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

Remainder of Unit 20(B)

Aug. 10–Sept. 20
(General Hunt Only)

Aug. 10–Sept. 20

1 bull

...

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 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 20(E), that portion south of an east-west line that passes through milepost 112.6 of the Taylor Highway (64° 18.535' N. latitude), except the Middle Fork of the Fortymile River drainage upstream from and including the Joseph Creek drainage, and except the Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River drainage upstream from and including the Wolf Creek 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

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)

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

**Nonresident
Open Season**

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
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
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 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
...		
(20)		
...		
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, except that portion south and east of the mainstem of Birch Creek upstream to its confluence with Crooked Creek Fork, then south of the mainstem of Crooked Creek Fork		

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. 4 Dec. 1–Dec. 2	
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. 4
Unit 25(C), that portion south and east of the mainstem of Birch Creek upstream to its confluence with Crooked Creek Fork, then south of the mainstem of Crooked Creek Fork, except that portion within the drainage of the south fork of Birch Creek and except that portion within the Yukon–Charley Rivers National Preserve.		
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. 4 Dec. 1–Feb. 22	
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. 4

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
Remainder of Unit 25(C)		
RESIDENT HUNTERS:		
1 bull by registration permit only, or	Aug. 10–Sept. 30	
1 caribou by registration permit only; or	Dec. 1–Feb. 22	
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 as a means of guiding harvest of the herd from 2012 through 2018. The annual harvest quota is allocated seasonally: 75% to the fall hunt and 25%, plus any surplus from the fall quota, to the winter hunt. This winter's harvest quota is 472 caribou. The winter quota is divided between the 2 road-accessible portions of the hunt area, the Steese Highway–Chena Hot Springs area in Units 20B and 25C (Zone 1) and the Taylor Highway area in Unit 20E (Zone 3). Sixty percent of the harvest quota is allocated to the road-accessible zone with the most caribou within reach of hunters immediately prior to the season opening. The winter quota for Zone 1 is 283 and the quota for Zone 3 is 189.

During this year's winter season, the herd has been primarily accessible from the Steese Highway and Chena Hot Springs Road in Zone 1. There have been very few Fortymile caribou in Zone 3 (Taylor Highway area) throughout the winter season. In addition, the southern two-thirds of Zone 3 has remained closed since the beginning of the season to protect Nelchina Herd caribou, which are not legal to harvest in this hunt. This has resulted in low harvest in Zone 3 since the state winter season opened on December 1.

To provide additional opportunity to hunt accessible Fortymile caribou, a portion of the Zone 3 quota has been re-allocated to Zone 1. However, to retain some harvest opportunity in Zone 3, the season in Zone 1, western Zone 2 and Zone 4 will be closed once the overall winter harvest reaches 422. This action will leave 50 caribou, out of the overall winter quota of 472, for hunters in the Taylor Highway area (eastern Zone 2 and Zone 3), during the remainder of the winter season.

We anticipate the overall winter harvest to reach 422 by the date and time of this closure; therefore, no further winter harvest of caribou under the State of Alaska season is warranted in Zone 1, western Zone 2 and Zone 4 of the RC867 hunt area.

Sam Cotten
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____

Jeffrey A. Gross
Area Biologist

DISTRIBUTION:

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19. Tanana Chiefs Conference
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