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# Alaska Department of Fish and Game

## NEWS

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### **Caribou Season Closed on Steese and Taylor Highways**

The State of Alaska fall hunting season for Fortymile caribou in areas accessible from the Steese and Taylor Highways will close at 11:59 pm Wednesday night, August 12, 2009.

Hunting for Fortymile caribou is regulated by joint state-federal registration permit hunt RC860, which opened August 10. Federally-qualified subsistence hunters will be allowed to continue to hunt on federal land in the area.

The State of Alaska caribou season will close in Zones 1 and 3 as shown on the map. Zone 1 includes lands accessible from the Steese Highway in Units 20B and 25C, and Zone 3 is the eastern portion of Unit 20E which is accessible from the Taylor highway and extends east to the Canadian border.

State and federal 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.

"The caribou are in very accessible locations near both highways," said Area Biologist, Jeff Gross. "Hunters will likely reach the quota of 480 caribou (including 120 cows) by Wednesday night."

Biologists are watching the harvest closely and will determine if Zone 2 needs to be closed before September 20.

Hunters who have not taken a caribou can continue to hunt in Zone 2. 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.

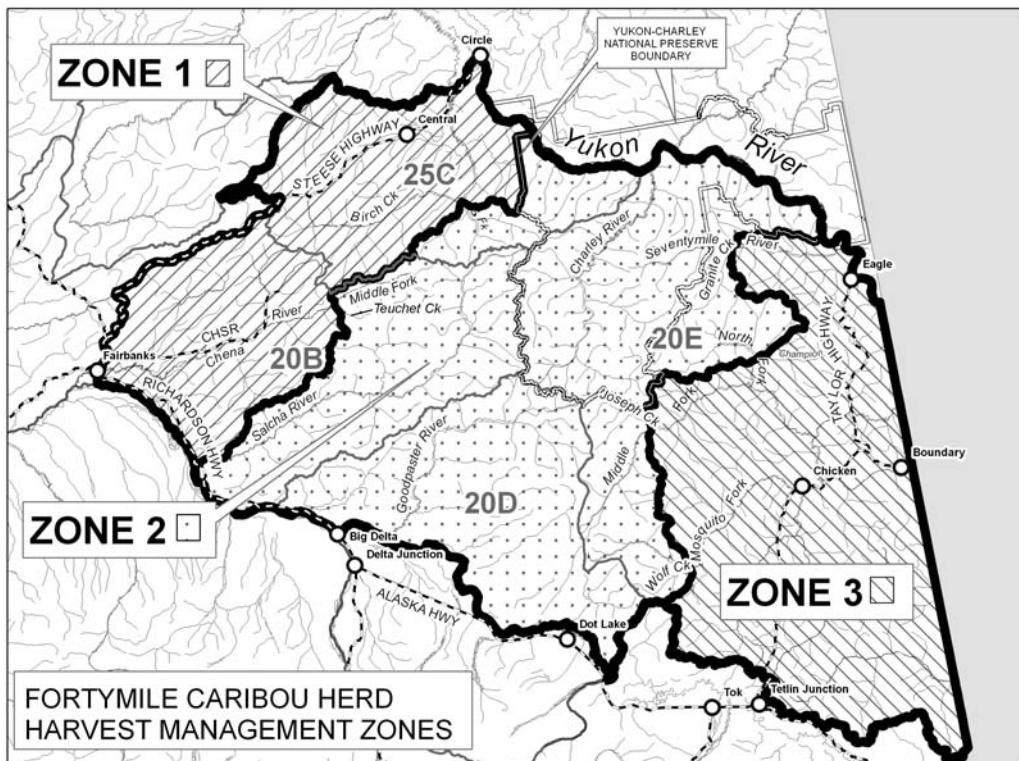
Hunters are urged to obtain a receipt when they turn in their hunt reports or to mail them by delivery confirmation receipt. Permit holders who fail to report will

not be allowed to obtain registration, drawing, or tier II permits during July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011, and may be cited for a violation of the Alaska hunting regulations.

The Fortymile Caribou Herd Harvest Plan guides harvest of the herd from 2006 to 2012, and the Board of Game establishes harvest quotas and regulations 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 39,000 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.



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