

2025 – 2026 Hunting Season Recommendations

Because regulatory changes through the board of game process will not be possible to complete prior to the upcoming 2025-2026 hunting season (regulatory year 2025), wildlife managers will continue to follow hunt management guidelines in the previous 2019 – 2023 Fortymile Herd Harvest Management Plan.

Please come to the HMC meeting ready to provide input to the wildlife managers about the following aspects of the previous harvest management plan as they relate to this upcoming hunting season. In other words, what you would prefer to see. This input will help guide hunt management decisions during the 2025 –2026 Fortymile caribou hunting seasons.

Timing of Emergency Orders (EO)

EO's are issued when quotas are about to be met or when large numbers of caribou are about to cross a road and risk of over harvest requires a temporary zone closure. Issuing EOs earlier (i.e. – a week or more before a planned closure) provides more time for hunters to adjust plans, but may result in the season closing before the quota is met, due to uncertainty about harvest rate requiring a more conservative estimate of what day the quota is expected to be met. Issuing EOs closer to the planned closure gives a shorter lead time for hunters, but maximizes harvest opportunity by allowing managers to monitor harvest and announce closure with more accuracy, allowing maximum hunter opportunity.

Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits

While the bag limit will likely need to be bulls only to minimize harvest effects on population trend, there may be some exceptions, such as either-sex for the Youth Hunt (30 permits).

Season dates can be changed with Department discretionary authority under current hunting regulations. Start dates can have an impact on numbers of hunter, weather conditions during the hunt, access, hunter success, hunter opportunity (season length), etc.

Alaska Harvest Quota Allocation

Please come prepared to discuss seasonal (fall vs. winter hunts) and area (Hunt Zones 1–4) quota allocations. Primarily how the quota should be divided between the fall and winter hunt and how the fall Zone quotas should be allocated, including the road accessible zones (Zones 1, 3 and 4) and the roadless zone (Zone 2) primarily accessed with aircraft and river boats.

See pages 8–9 in the 2019–2023 HMP – please review

Recommendations for Road Crossings – review current recommendations:

- Temporary closures in road corridors or specific drainages
- Use targeted hunts to provide additional hunting opportunity if necessary to help meet winter harvest quotas. AC999 was used during the winter hunt the past couple years. This provides a draw hunt opportunity when large numbers of caribou are near roads and risk of over harvest is too high to open the registration hunt.