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**Advisory Announcement**  
*For Immediate Release: August 24, 2020*

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**Macomb Caribou Season to Close One Day Early**

(DELTA JUNCTION) – Hunters planning to pursue the Macomb caribou herd during the motorized portion of the hunt under the RC835 permit are advised that the hunt will close at 11:59 p.m. on August 26.

“Harvest of the Macomb caribou herd has been steady since hunting opened on August 10, and we expect to meet the harvest quota of 60 bulls by Wednesday night,” said Delta Area Biologist Bob Schmidt. This allows hunters one day to hunt using motorized vehicles. “

Current surveys show the population is approximately 1,200 animals. The harvest quota was set at 60 bulls, which is within the harvest objective for this herd. This conservative quota was set because surveys the last few years show the population ranging from 1,100 to 1,400 animals compared to a high count of 1,800 animals for this herd. Additionally, the 2019 quota was exceeded by nearly 20%.

As of August 24<sup>th</sup>, there have been 37 bulls harvested and more harvest expected before the motorized portion of the hunt begins. Half of the harvest typically occurs during the two-day motorized portion of this hunt. Therefore, biologists are closing the hunt one day early to ensure the quota is not greatly exceeded.

Successful hunters must report within two days of the kill online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov>, or in person or by phone to the ADF&G office in Delta Junction (895-4484). Hunters who report by phone must also mail their permit reports or drop them off to the Fairbanks ADF&G office. Unsuccessful hunters must return their reports to an ADF&G office or report online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> within 15 days of the close of the season. Permit holders who fail to report will not be allowed to obtain registration, drawing, Tier I, or Tier II permits next year, and may be cited for a violation of the Alaska hunting regulations.

The Macomb caribou herd roams the eastern Alaska Range between the Delta River and Yerrick Creek south of the Alaska Highway. Since the early 1970s, the herd’s numbers have ranged from 350 to around 1,800 animals. Today the Macomb herd is managed for a fall population of 600–800 with a sustainable harvest of 30–70 caribou.

Hunters should be aware of local ordinances and restriction aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19. Please respect any local restrictions, wear face coverings and practice social distancing when in communities in or near the hunt area. Hunters may want to call ahead to find out if local communities have supplies available for sale.

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