

Hunting and Trapping

Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. 01-02-14

Issued at Sitka, Alaska
30 July, 2014

Effective Date: 31 July, 2014

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(unless superseded by subsequent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

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order closes the resident and nonresident mountain goat hunting season in the following portions of hunt area RG150; (1) that portion including Blue Lake, Glacier Lake drainages, (2) that portion including Medvejie Lake, Bear Lake, Indigo Lake drainages, and drainages into the east side of Silver Bay between Bear Cove and Mani point, and (3) that portion of the south Katlian River drainage including all drainages into the south side of Katlian Bay, including the drainage south of the south bank of the Katlian River, and that portion south of the south bank of the main stem stream draining into and out of Hogan Lake on Baranof Island in Game Management Unit 4. This emergency order takes effect at 11:59 PM, July 31, 2014.

REGULATION:

Therefore, the provisions of **5 AAC 85.040, Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
(1) ... Unit 4, that portion including Blue Lake and Glacier Lake drainages, (2) that portion Including Medvejie Lake, Bear Lake, and Indigo Lake drainages, and drainages into the east side of Silver Bay between Bear Cove and Mani point, and (3) that portion of the south Katlian River drainage including	No open season (General hunt only)	No open season

all drainages into the south side of Katlian Bay, including the drainage south of the south bank of the Katlian River; and that portion south of the south bank of the main stem stream draining into and out of Hogan Lake on Baranof Island.

1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited.

...

All other mountain goat hunting regulations in Unit 4 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

Cora Campbell
Commissioner

By delegation to: _____
Philip W. Mooney
Sitka Area Wildlife Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

Based on aerial survey data during 2006-2014, biologists have documented a continued mountain goat population decline in the geographical areas defined in this emergency order. A series of severe winters and high harvest of female goats by hunters have lowered the productivity of this goat population. Nearly 66% of the Unit 4 goat population occurs on the northern half of Baranof Island, and a core area within it (approximately 25% of that area) produces more than 60% of the goat harvest. Localized harvest intensity, especially on female goats, led to the biological concerns we now face.

Biologists have documented an increasing age structure of harvested female goats over time, which suggests that younger females are not as available as in the past. These concerns are further exacerbated with recent research data from collared goats near Sitka that reveals high fidelity by goats to small home ranges which can compromise a depleted mountain goat populations' ability to rebound quickly. This series of factors has led biologists to believe closing the goat season in the area described above is necessary to prevent further harvest and to allow this goat population to recover.

DISTRIBUTION:

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