PRESS RELEASE
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Eagle Glacier to Sawmill Creek Closed to Mountain Goat Hunting in Unit 1C

(Juneau) – Biologists with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Douglas announce an early closure to the mountain goat hunting season under the state registration permit hunt RG012, for that portion of Unit 1C from Eagle Glacier and Eagle River to Sawmill Creek.

An aerial survey conducted on September 11, 2016 in the area between Eagle Glacier and Sawmill Creek resulted in low goat counts; a total of 38 goats (12% kids) were observed. Surveys in the same area in 2015 resulted in 64 goats (42% kids), and 49 goats (31% kids) in 2014. Goat numbers began declining in the area after the severe winter of 2006/2007 and the population has been slow to recover although the recent mild winters should help. While goats are not isolated in these areas, historical survey data and recent GPS radio collar information suggests little movement between drainages. Because goats demonstrate high site fidelity, areas with low densities may require longer periods to recover if additional harvest were allowed prematurely. Based on the few goats observed in this area in addition to the aforementioned reasons, area managers consider it necessary to close the season in this area to prevent any harvest of mountain goats.

An Emergency Order (01-08-16) was issued that closes the mountain goat season in this area on Friday, September 30, 2016 @ 11:59 pm.

The remaining area of registration mountain goat hunt RG012, the area east of Sawmill Creek to Antler Lake, and all other mountain goat hunting regulations in Unit 1C remain unchanged and are not affected by this Emergency Order.