



Federal Subsistence Board



1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOREST SERVICE

SOUTH BARANOF AND LISA CREEK ZONES ON BARANOF ISLAND IN UNIT 4 ARE CLOSED TO THE HARVEST OF MOUNTAIN GOATS

TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION: FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

Under authority of: 36 CFR §242.10 and .19
50 CFR §100.10 and .19

Temporary Special Action No: 13-MG-01-20
Issued at: Sitka Alaska, July 27, 2020

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, July 31, 2020

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2020 unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

This Temporary Special Action closes the South Baranof and Lisa Creek Zones on Baranof Island near Sitka, Alaska to the harvest of mountain goats.

REGULATION: 36 CFR §242.26(n)(4) and 50 CFR §100.26(n)(4) are amended to read:

Unit 4 – Mountain Goat

1 goat by State registration permit only.

Aug. 1 - Dec. 31

South Baranof - Drainages south of Gut Bay and the east branch of Great Arm Whale Bay and their respective inlet streams; and north of the divide between Larch Bay and Port Conclusion.

Closed

Lisa Creek – Drainages north of Katlian Bay, west of Coxe River, east of Nakwasina Sound and south of Nakwasina River downstream of Cold Storage Lake pass, but excluding the Lisianski Peninsula.

Closed

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to /s/Perry Edwards
Perry Edwards
District Ranger
Sitka Ranger District
July 24, 2020

JUSTIFICATION:

Data from collared goats near Sitka documented that goats have high fidelity to small home ranges and are slow to recolonize vacant habitat. That finding combined with high localized harvest in more accessible areas lead managers to develop an updated management strategy for mountain goats on Baranof Island beginning with the 2017 season. Baranof Island was divided into 34 small hunt zones. Dividing Baranof Island into more zones allows biologists to manage at the subpopulation level, affording hunters more opportunities and reducing the possibility of localized overharvest. Under the previous management strategy, quotas were based on larger geographical areas, which sometimes included several subpopulations. The quota for a large zone could be reached after several goats were taken from a single access point. That resulted in the large area being closed while additional harvest opportunity remained in more remote portions of that larger zone. This new strategy of subdividing large zones is providing more opportunity for hunters by allowing more remote zones to stay open after zones with easier access close.

Based on aerial surveys during 2018-2019, biologists documented mountain goat population levels in hunt zones on Baranof Island and assigned corresponding harvest quotas. Mortality data from collared goats during the winter of 2019/2020 indicate that goat populations on Baranof Island have likely declined since the most recent surveys. Zones closed by this special action could be over-utilized due to low population levels.

Managers will reassess and make adjustments to hunt zone quotas and/or open and close zones when updated surveys are conducted in September.

A public hearing to discuss the 2020 Baranof Island mountain goat management strategy was held on July 23, 2020 in Sitka, Alaska. Members of the public who attended were supportive of conserving mountain goats on Baranof Island through closures guided by the management strategy. The 2020 strategy is similar to the 2019 strategy with distinct male and female guideline harvest levels by zone. Female harvest is more restrictive than male harvest when applied to the guideline harvest levels. As the guideline harvest levels in each of the zones are reached, those zones will be closed to mountain goat harvest.

The remainder of Baranof Island will remain open for goat hunting unless closed by past or future special action. Future special actions may also be issued to reopen zones if it is determined that those subpopulations could withstand harvest.

DISTRIBUTION:

RADIO

KHOO Radio-Hoonah Community FM Radio; KCAW radio – Sitka; KIFW radio – Sitka; KSBZ radio – Sitka

NEWSPAPERS

Sitka Daily Sentinel

TELEVISION

KSCT LP – Sitka, KYNL DT – Sitka, Simulcasts KATH LP – Sitka

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hoonah Indian Association; City of Hoonah; City of Tenakee; City of Sitka; Sitka Tribe of Alaska; City of Pelican, City of Angoon, Angoon Community Association; Don Hernandez, Southeast Regional Subsistence Advisory Council Chair; Stephen Bethune, ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation, Sitka; Ben Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, ADF&G; Mark Burch, Special Projects Coordinator, ADF&G; Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor, USFS-Ketchikan; Joseph Boggs, USFS Law Enforcement Officer, Petersburg; Carol Lagodich, Tongass Public Affairs, USFS – Ketchikan; Paul Robbins Jr., Public Affairs Officer, USFS – Ketchikan; Tom Doolittle, Theo Matuskowitz, Paul McKee, Caron McKee, and George Pappas, Office of Subsistence Management - Anchorage; Deyna Kuntzsch, Subsistence Program Leader, USFS-Anchorage; Terry Suminski, Tongass Subsistence Program Leader, USFS-Sitka; DeAnna Perry, Subsistence Council Coordinator, USFS-Juneau; Alaska Department of Public Safety.