



## 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

### WHALE BAY ZONE ON BARANOF ISLAND IN UNIT 4 IS CLOSED TO THE HARVEST OF MOUNTAIN GOATS

#### EMERGENCY TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION: FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

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

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Emergency Temporary Special Action No: 13-MG-09-19  
Issued at: Sitka Alaska, November 22, 2019

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, November 25, 2019  
Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Tuesday, December 31, 2019 unless superseded by subsequent special action

#### **EXPLANATION:**

This Emergency Temporary Special Action closes the Whale Bay Zone 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*

*Necker Bay – The peninsulas west of Small Arm Whale Bay/Creek, west of Benzeman Lake and southeast of Crawfish Inlet, but excluding Aspid Cape.*

*Closed*

*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

*Clarence Kramer - Drainages north of Blue Lake/Creek between Glacier Lake outflow and Clarence Creek, including Clarence Kramer Peak.* 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

*Bear Mountain – Silver Bay drainages between Sawmill and Medvejie Creeks, south of Blue Lake/Creek, west of the south fork Blue Lake Creek and northwest of Medvejie Creek to Baranof Pass.* Closed

*Rosenberg Lake – North fork Nakwasina River drainages upstream of the Peak 3098 Creek confluence, south of the north fork Nakwasina River downstream of the Peak 3098 Creek confluence, and Rosenberg Lake/Creek drainages.* Closed

*Upper Blue Lake – Drainages of north fork Blue Lake Creek, east of the Glacier Lake outflow, east of south fork Blue Lake Creek and north of Baranof Pass (west side Mt. Bassie).* Closed

*Indigo Lake – Drainages north of Vodopad River and Green Lake downstream of the creek originating from Peak 4130, east of Silver Bay and southeast of Medvejie Creek/Lake to Baranof Pass, including Indigo Lake and Cupola (Cross) Peak.* Closed

*Vodopad River – Upper Vodopad River drainages upstream of the creek originating from Peak 4130, but excluding the Lucky Chance ridge.* Closed

*Whale Bay – Drainages east of Small Arm Whale Bay/Creek, east of Benzeman Lake, west of Great Arm Whale Bay/Creek to the pass at Peak 2907 and drainages of Politofski Lake.* Closed

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to /s/Perry Edwards  
Perry Edwards  
District Ranger  
Sitka Ranger District  
November 22, 2019

## **JUSTIFICATION:**

Based on aerial surveys, historical harvest and vulnerability to harvest, biologists have set a maximum guideline harvest objective of three male goats or one female goat in the Whale Bay Zone. As of Thursday, November 21, three male goats have been harvested. Further mountain goat harvest in this zone would have negative effects to the long term conservation of this mountain goat subpopulation.

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 led 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.

A public hearing to discuss the 2019 Baranof Island mountain goat management strategy was held on July 25, 2019 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 2019 strategy is similar to the 2018 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 additional 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 Alaska Subsistence Regional 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; Troy Heithecker, 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; Thomas Whitford, 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.