



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

UPPER BLUE LAKE ZONE ON BARANOF ISLAND IN UNIT 4 CLOSED TO THE HARVEST OF MOUNTAIN GOATS

SPECIAL ACTION: FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

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

Special Action No: 13-MG-06-17

Issued at: Sitka Alaska, October 10, 2017

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, October 12, 2017

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Sunday, December 31, 2017 unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

This Special Action closes the Upper Blue Lake 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

Upper Blue Lake is closed - 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).

Oct. 12 – Dec. 31

Whale Bay is open – 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.

Oct. 7 – Dec. 31

Lake Diana is closed – Drainages south of Redoubt Lake Creek, east of West Crawfish Inlet Creek to Redoubt Lake Creek, west of Lake Ekaterina/Creek to the pass into Upper Benzeman Creek; and west of Upper Benzeman Creek and the ridge between Peaks 4435 and 4358.

Aug. 18 – Dec. 31

The Pyramids – Drainages north of Redoubt Lake, west of Redoubt Lake Trail and south of Silver Bay, including Deep Inlet and Eureka Mtn.

Closed

Slaughter Ridge – 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.

Indian River - Drainages of Sitka Sound between Katlian River and Sawmill Creek, north of Sawmill Creek, south of south fork Katlian River and west of Clarence Creek, including Indian River, Granite Creek, Starrigavan Creek, and the Mt. Verstovia/Arrowhead ridge.

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.

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.

Lake Irina – Drainages south of Redoubt Lake, north of West Crawfish Inlet and west of their respective inlet streams, but excluding the Kliuchef Peninsula.

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.

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

Lucky Chance - Drainages east of the Redoubt Lake Trail, north of Redoubt Lake Creek; and south of Green Lake and the Vodopad River, including Lucky Chance Mountain.

North Kelp Bay - Drainages east of Lake Eva Creek and north of Middle Arm Kelp Bay/Creek downstream of Lake Eva Creek pass.

Kasnyku/Takatz - Chatham Strait drainages between Kelp Bay and Triple Lake Creek, including Kasnyku and Takatz Bays.

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.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to /s/Perry Edwards

Perry Edwards
District Ranger
Sitka Ranger District
October 10, 2017

JUSTIFICATION:

Based on aerial surveys, historical harvest and vulnerability to harvest, biologists have set a maximum guideline harvest objective of two male goats or one female goat in the Upper Blue Lake zone. As of Monday, October 9, two male goats have been harvested. Continued mountain goat harvest in this area would be detrimental to the long term conservation of the mountain goat population.

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 this 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, which should afford hunters more opportunities and reduce 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 small area around 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 should provide more opportunity for hunters by allowing more remote zones to stay open after zones with easier access close.

A public hearing to discuss the 2017 Baranof Island Mountain Goat Management Plan was held on July 20th, 2017 in Sitka, Alaska. The ability to teleconference was provided so residents of other affected communities could participate. Members of the public who attended were

supportive of conserving mountain goats on Baranof Island through closures guided by the management plan. The 2017 management plan is similar to the 2016 plan with distinct male and female guideline harvest levels by zones on Baranof Island. 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.

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; Stephen Bethune, ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation Sitka, City of Pelican, City of Angoon, Angoon Community Association; Michael Bangs, Southeast Regional Subsistence Advisory Council Chair; Earl Stewart, Forest Supervisor; Jeff Bryden, Subsistence L.E.O; Carol Lagodich, Tongass Public Affairs-Ketchikan; Paul Robbins Jr., Public Affairs Officer, USFS – Ketchikan; Theo Matuskowitz, Office of Subsistence Management - Anchorage; Paul McKee, Office of Subsistence Management – Anchorage; Thomas Whitford, Subsistence Program Leader, USFS-Anchorage; Terry Suminski, Tongass Subsistence Program Leader, USFS-Sitka; Alaska Department of Public Safety.