



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 BENZEMAN ZONE ON BARANOF ISLAND IN UNIT 4 IS 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-07-18

Issued at: Sitka Alaska, September 18, 2018

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, September 19, 2018

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Monday, December 31, 2018 unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

This Special Action closes the Upper Benzeman Zone on Baranof Island near Sitka, Alaska to the harvest of mountain goats for the remainder of the 2018 season.

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

Bear Mountain is closed – Drainages of Silver Bay 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.

Aug. 10 – Dec. 31

Upper Benzeman is closed –Upper Benzeman Creek drainages (excluding the ridge south of Ekaterina Creek) and drainages east of Cedar Pass, south of West Crawfish Inlet, Shamrock Bay and Ekaterina Lake/Creek; and drainages north of Crawfish Inlet.

Sep. 20 – Dec. 31

Red Bluff Bay is closed – Drainages of Red Bluff Bay Creek north fork, north of Red Bluff Bay and Chatham Strait drainages between benchmark Red and Red Bluff Bay.

Sep. 20 – 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 (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.

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.

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.

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
September 18, 2018

JUSTIFICATION:

Based on aerial surveys, historical harvest and vulnerability to harvest, biologists have set a maximum guideline harvest objective of four male goats or one female goat in the Upper Benzeman Zone. As of Monday, September 17, four male goats have been reported harvested. Further mountain goat harvest in this zone would be detrimental to the long term conservation of the mountain goat population.

Data from collared Baranof Island mountain goats indicated that they have high fidelity to small home ranges and are slow to recolonize vacant habitat. This 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 in 2017. Baranof Island was divided into 34 smaller hunt zones. Dividing Baranof Island into more zones allowed biologists to manage at the subpopulation level, which afforded hunters more opportunities while 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 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 strategy of subdividing large zones provided more opportunity for hunters by allowing more remote zones to stay open after zones with easier access were closed.

Based on aerial surveys during 2016 and 2017, biologists documented mountain goat population levels in each of the hunt zones and assigned corresponding quotas. Zones closed by this Special Action did not have high enough population levels to allow harvest without jeopardizing the long term health of those subpopulations.

A public hearing to discuss the 2018 Baranof Island mountain goat management strategy was held on July 19, 2018 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 2018 strategy is similar to the 2017 plan with distinct male and female guideline harvest levels by zone 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 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; 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; 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.