

# Hunting and Trapping Emergency Order

Under the Authority of AS 16.05.060

Alaska Department  
of Fish and Game

Emergency Order No. 01-02-16

Issued at Sitka, Alaska  
29 July, 2016

**Effective Date:** 31 July, 2016

**Expiration Date:** 30 June 2017  
(unless superseded by subsequent  
emergency order)

**EXPLANATION:**

This emergency order closes the resident and nonresident mountain goat hunting season in the following portions of hunt area RG150; (1) that portion including Blue Lake, Glacier Lake drainages, (2) that portion including Medvejie Lake, Bear Lake, Indigo Lake drainages, and drainages into the east side of Silver Bay between Bear Cove and Mani Point, (3) that portion of the south Katlian River drainage including all drainages into the south side of Katlian Bay, and that portion south of the south bank of the main stem stream draining into and out of Hogan Lake, and (4) that portion including the Mosquito Cove, Starrigavan Creek, No Name Creek, Granite Creek, Cascade Creek, Indian River, and Thimbleberry Lake drainages on Baranof Island in Game Management Unit 4. This emergency order takes effect at 11:59 PM, July 31, 2016.

**REGULATION:**

Therefore, the provisions of **5 AAC 85.040, Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat**, are superseded by this emergency order, and the following provisions are effective:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts	Nonresident Open Season
... Unit 4, that portion including Blue Lake, Glacier Lake drainages, (2) that portion including Medvejie Lake, Bear Lake, Indigo Lake drainages, and drainages into the east	No open season (General hunt only)	No open season

side of Silver Bay between Bear Cove and Mani Point, (3) that portion of the south Katlian River drainage including all drainages into the south side of Katlian Bay, and that portion south of the south bank of the main stem stream draining into and out of Hogan Lake, and (4) that portion including the Mosquito Cove, Starrigavan Creek, No Name Creek, Granite Creek, Cascade Creek, Indian River, and Thimbleberry Lake drainages on Baranof Island.


1 goat by registration permit only, the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited.

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All other mountain goat hunting regulations in Unit 4 remain unchanged and are not affected by this emergency order.

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Sam Cotten  
Commissioner

By delegation to:   
Stephen Bethune  
Sitka Area Wildlife Management Biologist

**JUSTIFICATION:**

Based on aerial surveys during 2006-2015, biologists documented mountain goat population declines in the geographical areas defined in this emergency order. A series of severe winters and high harvest of female goats by hunters reduced the productivity of this goat population. Approximately 66% of the Unit 4 goat population occurs on the northern half of Baranof Island, and a core area within it (approximately 25% of that area) historically produced more than 60% of the goat harvest. Localized harvest intensity, especially on female goats, combined with severe winters from 2006-2008, led to the current biological concern.

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 can compromise a depleted mountain goat populations' ability to rebound quickly. This combination of factors has led biologists to close the goat season in the area described above to prevent further harvest and to facilitate this goat population's continuing recovery.

DISTRIBUTION:

The distribution of this emergency order is to the attached listing. Copies are available from the Department of Fish and Game offices in Juneau, Douglas, Petersburg, Ketchikan, Wrangell, Sitka, Yakutat, Haines, Anchorage, Nome and Fairbanks.

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