

ACR 17 – Change the goat registration hunt in Unit 14C, Lake George, to a drawing hunt.

SUBMITTED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

MEETING ACR SUBMITTED FOR: 2016 Statewide Regulations Meeting

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

85.040(a)(7) Seasons and bag limits for goat.

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM. Beginning in 2002, participation in goat registration hunts in Unit 14C, specifically the Lake George area, increased dramatically following changes to goat hunts on the Kenai Peninsula, with drawing hunts Aug. 10–Oct. 15 and a late season registration hunt Nov. 1–Nov. 30. As a result, the only early season registration goat hunts available in the area were in Units 14A and 14C. Hunter participation, specifically by guided nonresident hunters, increased rapidly for these registration hunts. In 2011, the board converted the nonresident drawing permit hunt back to a registration permit hunt with a separate quota from the resident registration permit hunt. This management strategy has been challenging for department staff to manage the harvest quota given the amount of participation and very high success for guided nonresidents. Since nonresidents have continually exceeded their quota for this area, the registration hunt model does not allow for timely management of harvest. The department is requesting the board to return to a drawing permit system for all nonresident hunters in this area.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER? Unit 14C Lake George hunt area. One goat by drawing hunt only for nonresidents.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE CRITERIA STATED ABOVE.

a) for a conservation purpose or reason: A registration hunt system works when there is moderate participation and adequate resources. Harvest can be monitored to stay within the objectives. If necessary the season can be shortened by emergency order to avoid overharvest. In the past 3 years the harvest quota was reached and exceeded before the department could respond with an emergency order. Continued overharvest could reduce the goat population in this area or could complicate subsequent years' management.

b) to correct an error in regulation: N/A

c) to correct an effect on a hunt that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted:

Repeated overharvest of the mountain goat population was not anticipated. Participation in this hunt guided nonresidents was greater than expected. With nearly 100% success rate the harvest quota is usually met while other hunters are still in the field. Even with short reporting requirements the potential for exceeding the quota is high.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE? The extent of the problem was not revealed until last fall when the harvest quota was exceeded by over 70% (quota of 7, harvest of 12). This level of overharvest threatens the 2016 season because nearly all of that quota has been taken. Alternatively the department may need to limit the number of registration permits. This is unpopular because it

will cause hunters to stand in line (if we use an in-person requirement) or compete with an online application process.

The board recently changed their cycle. In order to make the rotation work region II will need to wait 4 years to address this in cycle (next board meeting in winter 2019). Because this change involves returning to a drawing permit system that could not happen until the 2020 hunting season.

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

The board has previously allocated hunting opportunity between residents and nonresidents. This ACR addresses a conservation concern.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE. N/A

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR. Alaska Department of Fish and Game, hunt manager.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING. The board adopted the current permit system during the March 2011 board meeting.