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Alaska Department of Fish & Game

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Portion of Unit 5A Closed to Mountain Goat Hunting

Biologists with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Douglas announced a closure to the mountain goat hunting season under the state registration permit hunt RG170, for that portion of unit 5(A) that is bounded on the east by the western edge of Harlequin Lake and the Yakutat Glacier, on the west by Russell Fiord, and on the north by Nunatak Fiord (including the East Nunatak Glacier).

Aerial surveys conducted during 2006-2010 in this area indicate a significant decline in goat numbers. The following are survey results by year: 2006 (122 goats), 2007 (66 goats), 2008 (57 goats), 2009 (48 goats). In 2010, two surveys resulted in 6 and 12 goats, respectively. The survey conditions during the 2010 flights are considered poor; however, the low number of goats detected suggests the areas' goat numbers remain depressed. In 2009 and 2010 the department closed this area by EO prior to the season due to conservation concerns, and believes it is necessary to again close the season in 2011 prior to any harvest. Any harvest of goats in this area could have long term negative impacts on the health of this goat herd.

An Emergency Order (01-02-11) was issued that closed the mountain goat season in this area on Sunday, July 31, 2011 @ 11:59 pm.

All other mountain goat hunting regulations in Unit 5A remain unchanged and are not affected by this Emergency Order. Yakutat residents are reminded that this does not affect the federal subsistence season.

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