

# STATE OF ALASKA

## DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

### DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**For Immediate Release**

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### **Four Kodiak Mountain Goat Registration Hunts Close**

This year there will not be registration mountain goat hunts in the Crown Mountain (RG472), East Terror Lake (RG473), Kiliuda Bay (RG476) and North Kodiak road system (RG479) hunt areas. In each of those areas, the harvest during the drawing hunts met the targets established by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. All other areas will open as scheduled on November 1, 2011, but hunters are encouraged to contact the Kodiak ADF&G office before they go hunting to check on the status of individual hunts.

Goat hunters on Kodiak harvested over 100 goats during the 2011 drawing hunts that lasted from August 20 to October 25. The harvest rate was comparable to previous years and in many areas there will still be an opportunity for a late season registration hunts. To be eligible to participate in a late season hunt, hunters must pick up a permit in the village closest to the hunt area (hunts RG471, 474, and 478), or on-line for hunt RG480 (southwest Kodiak).

The mountain goat population on Kodiak originated from 11 females and 7 males, which were moved from the Kenai Peninsula to the Hidden Basin area during 1952 and 1953. In 1964, 26 goats were observed in the Crown Mountain area. The first hunting season was authorized in 1968, and permits have been issued each year since then with the number of permits available and open areas changing to reflect population trends and goat movements.

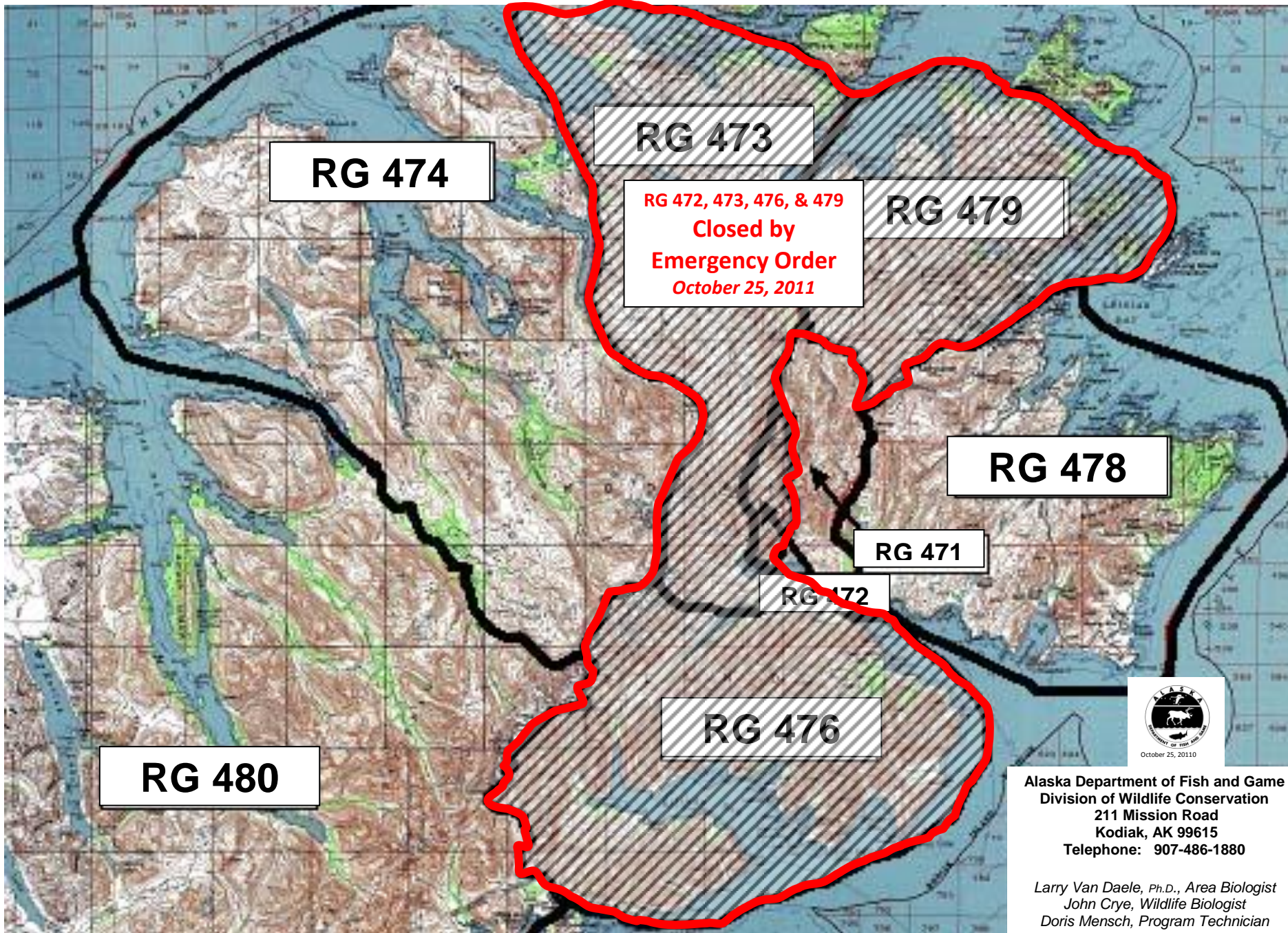
From the late 1960s through 1970s, goat populations were lightly harvested and most areas were closed to hunting to encourage colonization. During the 1980s, the population continued to increase from an estimated 150 to over 400 animals, and new pockets of goats were observed on the southern end of the island. Throughout the 1990s, goat

populations continued to grow and the management scheme remained conservative. Populations were closely monitored, and permits were adjusted accordingly. Some of the western portion of the island, which had been closed to facilitate colonization, was open to limited hunting in 1991. A new hunt area close to the Kodiak road system opened to hunting in 1995. In 2001, the Department recommended, and the Board of Game adopted, a more liberal harvest strategy and hunt area boundaries were modified to include all of Kodiak and Uganik Islands.

There are currently 8 permit mountain goat hunt areas that are managed by drawing and registration permits. Goat harvest quotas are established for each permit hunt area annually. Harvest quota percentages in individual permit areas range from 5% to 20%. If harvest quota objectives are not met during the drawing permit season, registration permits are available. In the southwestern part of Kodiak, where goat populations are expanding into new areas, liberal hunting regulations allow a 4 month registration hunt for both resident and non-resident hunters.

Mountain goats currently occupy all available goat habitat on the island, and there are confirmed reports of goats as far as Halibut Bay and Akalura Lake. Based on data from comprehensive aerial surveys, we estimated that the goat population on Kodiak Island in 2011 was 2,500 goats.

# MOUNTAIN GOAT REGISTRATION HUNT AREAS – 2011-12



## MOUNTAIN GOAT REGISTRATION HUNTS – 2011 -12

Game Management Unit, Area	Hunt #	Season Dates	Permits Available In Person At:	Specimens Required (Return with report)	Reporting Requirements If Successful	Additional Requirements and Information
<b>Wild Creek - Center Mountain</b> <i>Alaska Residents Only</i>	RG471	Nov. 1 through Dec. 15	Port Lions Starting Oct 17, 2011	Hunters are encouraged to bring their goat horns into the Kodiak ADF&G office for measurement, but this is not a requirement.	In person or by phone to Kodiak within 2 days of completion of hunt, and permit report within 5 days	Alaska Residents only <i>(except RG480)</i>
<b>Crown Mountain</b> <b>CLOSED OCT 25, 2011</b>	RG472		Port Lions Starting Oct 17, 2011			Aircraft access limited to saltwater or State maintained airports <i>(except RG480)</i>
<b>Hidden Basin - East Terror Lake</b> <b>CLOSED OCT 25, 2011</b>	RG473		Port Lions Starting Oct 17, 2011			Hunt areas may not open or may be closed early by Emergency Order if harvest meets or exceeds target harvest levels. Contact the ADF&G office in Kodiak prior to going afield to obtain current information
<b>Uganik River</b> <i>Alaska Residents Only</i>	RG474		Larsen Bay or Port Lions Starting Oct 17, 2011			
<b>Kiliuda Bay</b> <b>CLOSED OCT 25, 2011</b>	RG476		Old Harbor Starting Oct 17, 2011			
<b>South Road System</b> <i>Alaska Residents Only</i> <i>Certified Bowhunters Only</i>	RG478		Kodiak Starting Oct 17, 2011			
<b>North Road System</b> <b>CLOSED OCT 25, 2011</b>	RG479		Kodiak Starting Oct 17, 2011			Detailed map of hunt areas are available at ADF&G offices in Anchorage and Kodiak and ADF&G website
<b>Zachar River &amp; Southwest Kodiak</b> <i>formerly called RG475 &amp; 477</i> <i>Open to residents and nonresidents</i>	RG480	Aug. 20 through Dec. 15	Kodiak, Soldotna, Homer, Palmer, Anchorage, Fairbanks, and on the internet			RG 478 & 479 are limited to archers with a valid IBEP card.

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT REGISTRATION GOAT HUNTS ON KODIAK

**Where can I hunt goats without a drawing permit?** Any part of Kodiak Island may be open for a registration hunt if harvest targets are not met during the drawing hunts. In late October, ADF&G will determine which registration hunts will be opened.

**Who can participate in registration goat hunts?** Hunts RG471-479 are open to Alaska residents only. Hunt RG480 is open to residents and nonresidents. You need a valid hunting license, a registration permit, and you cannot have already killed a goat anywhere in Alaska this year. Nonresidents must use a guide.

**Where are registration permits available?** Permits can be picked up, in person, at the community nearest to the hunting area (see the chart above). Most will be available from during normal working hours. Contact ADF&G or the village office for details. RG480 permits are more widely available.

**Are there any other special restrictions for these hunts?** Yes. In RG471–479, aircraft can only take goat hunters and their gear to state maintained airports or floatplanes can be used in saltwater areas. For the hunts on the Kodiak road system (RG478 & 479) only certified archers may participate in the hunt.

**What are the season dates and bag limits?** The season for RG471-479 is scheduled for November 1 – December 15; for RG480 the scheduled season is August 20 – December 15. Individual hunt areas may not open or may be closed early by Emergency Order if harvest targets are met. Check with ADF&G in Kodiak (907-486-1880) prior to going afield to get the latest on hunt status. The bag limit is one goat, either sex, however females with young are protected.

**What are the reporting requirements?** Successful hunters must contact ADF&G in Kodiak as soon as possible after leaving the field (call within 2 days and send report within 5 days). Unsuccessful hunters must send in their report cards within 15 days after the end of the season.

**Why are most of these hunts so restrictive?** Kodiak goat populations are expanding into new areas and this is allowing for greater hunting opportunities. We have to be careful in managing these new opportunities so that goats in easily accessed areas are not overharvested.