

Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Corey Rossi, Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation

Doug Larsen, Region I Supervisor
Division of Wildlife Conservation
P. O. Box 110024
Douglas, AK 99824-0020
(907) 465-4265

Contact: Phil Mooney, Area Management Biologist
Division of Wildlife Conservation
304 Lake Street, Room 103
Sitka, AK 99835
(907) 747-5449



Alaska Department of Fish & Game

NEWS

Thursday, July 7, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Unit 4 Mountain Goat Season Changes Announced

The registration hunt (RG150) for mountain goats in Game Management Unit 4 on Baranof Island will include areas that will be closed to all goat hunting for the 2011 season. The affected areas are: the Blue Lake/Medvejie Lake drainages and the south fork of the Katlian River drainage.

The closures are a result of a number of factors:

- An overall decline in the goat population has occurred since the extreme weather of 2006-07. Aerial survey data indicates a 21% decline in the multi-year average and a 42% decline since the high census in 2004. The number of kids per adult goats has declined 62%.
- A sustained (16 years) nanny harvest ratio of 40% that occurred in an expanding population scenario cannot be sustained in a declining population situation.
- From 1976-2000 the average age of nannies harvested was 3 years old. In 2001 it was 4.88 years old and in 2010 it was 6.10 years old. The trend indicates that hunters are harvesting nannies that comprise the reproductive component of the population.
- Hunt effort and success has been concentrated in the principal watersheds of Blue Lake, Medvejie Lake, Katlian River, and the Nakwasina River. Additionally, approximately 66% of Baranof Island's goat population occurs from the Green Lake watershed to the north, which concentrates hunters in a smaller geographical area.
- Even though ADF&G began efforts to inform hunters about the effects of harvesting nannies that predates 1992, and a concerted effort was undertaken in 2008 to persuade hunters to forego nanny harvest; the last five seasons have produced an average nanny harvest of 41% with a high of 61% in the 2009 season.

- Recent location information retrieved from radio-collared goats in the Blue Lake area show small home ranges for goats and high seasonal fidelity to those areas.

The majority of Baranof Island will remain open for goat hunting but will be managed, as in the past 5 years, with a maximum point total as a guideline harvest cap in watersheds and geographical zones. As in prior seasons, nanny harvest will be more restrictive than billy harvest when applied to the point total. If and when point totals are met, emergency orders will be issued to close additional watersheds and zones to prevent an overharvest of goats.

Cooperation has been on-going with the Sitka District Ranger of the US Forest Service, who is the Federal subsistence in-season manager, to develop a management plan that addresses the conservation concerns for this mountain goat population. A public meeting/hearing is scheduled at Sitka's Centennial Hall on July 15, 2011 at 6:30 PM.

All hunters registering for the hunt this season will be required to certify they have read the ADF&G Mountain Goat Identification Quiz. The quiz is available online at:

http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=quiz.overview&quiz_id=3

or it can be downloaded in a PDF format at :

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=goathunting.resources>

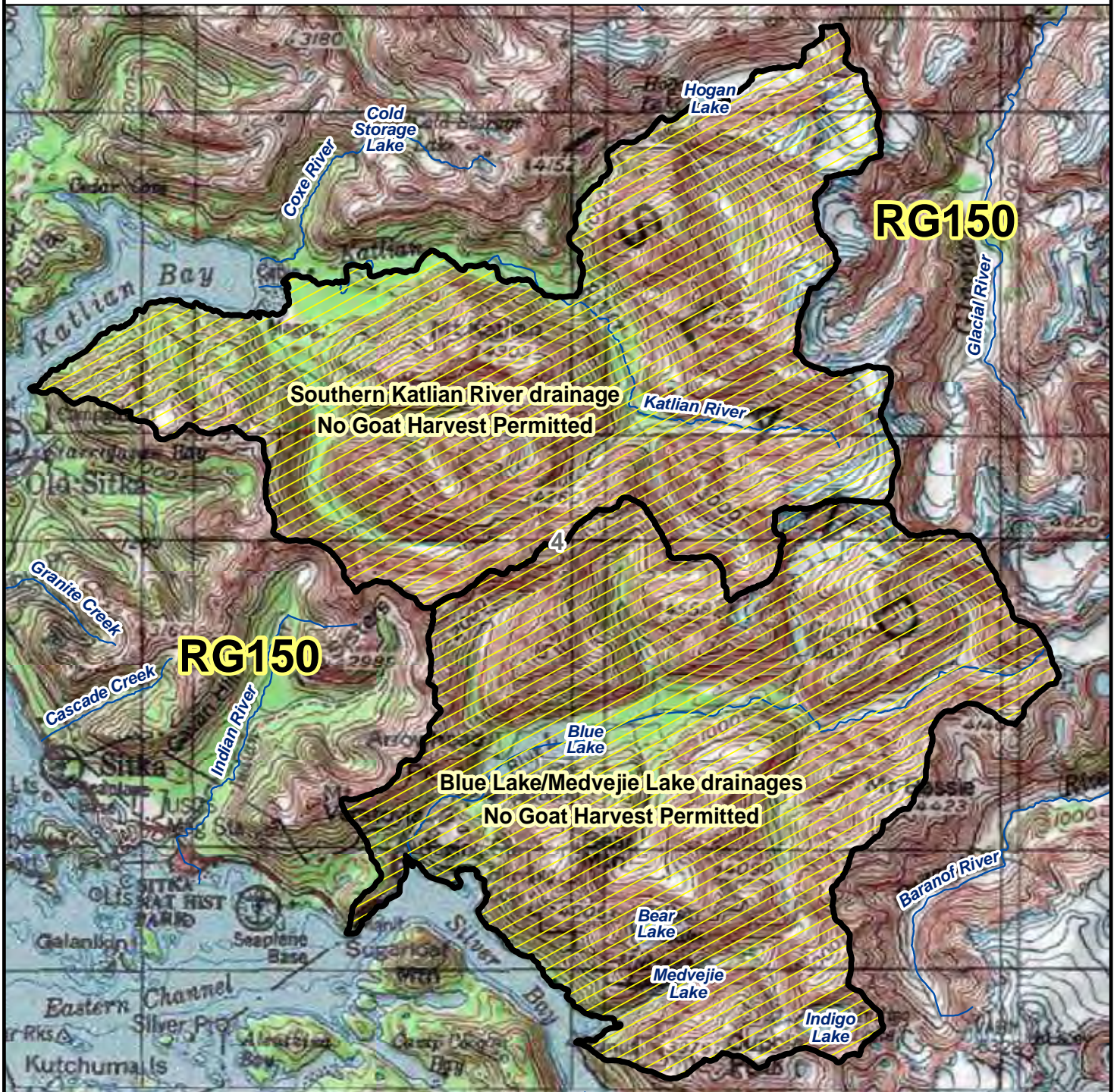
All successful hunters must submit goat horns for age and sex identification, as well as their hunt report, within 5 days of the kill. Unsuccessful hunters and hunters who registered but did not hunt must return their completed hunt reports to the ADF&G office in Sitka by the close of business on January 16, 2012.

Please contact the Sitka Area office at 747-5449 if you have any questions.

RG150 - Mountain Goat

S. Katlian R. and Blue/Medvejie Lakes Drainages

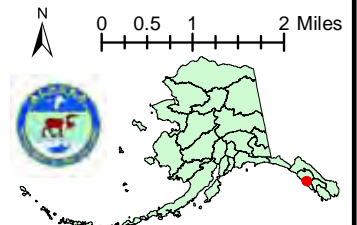
NO GOAT HARVEST PERMITTED



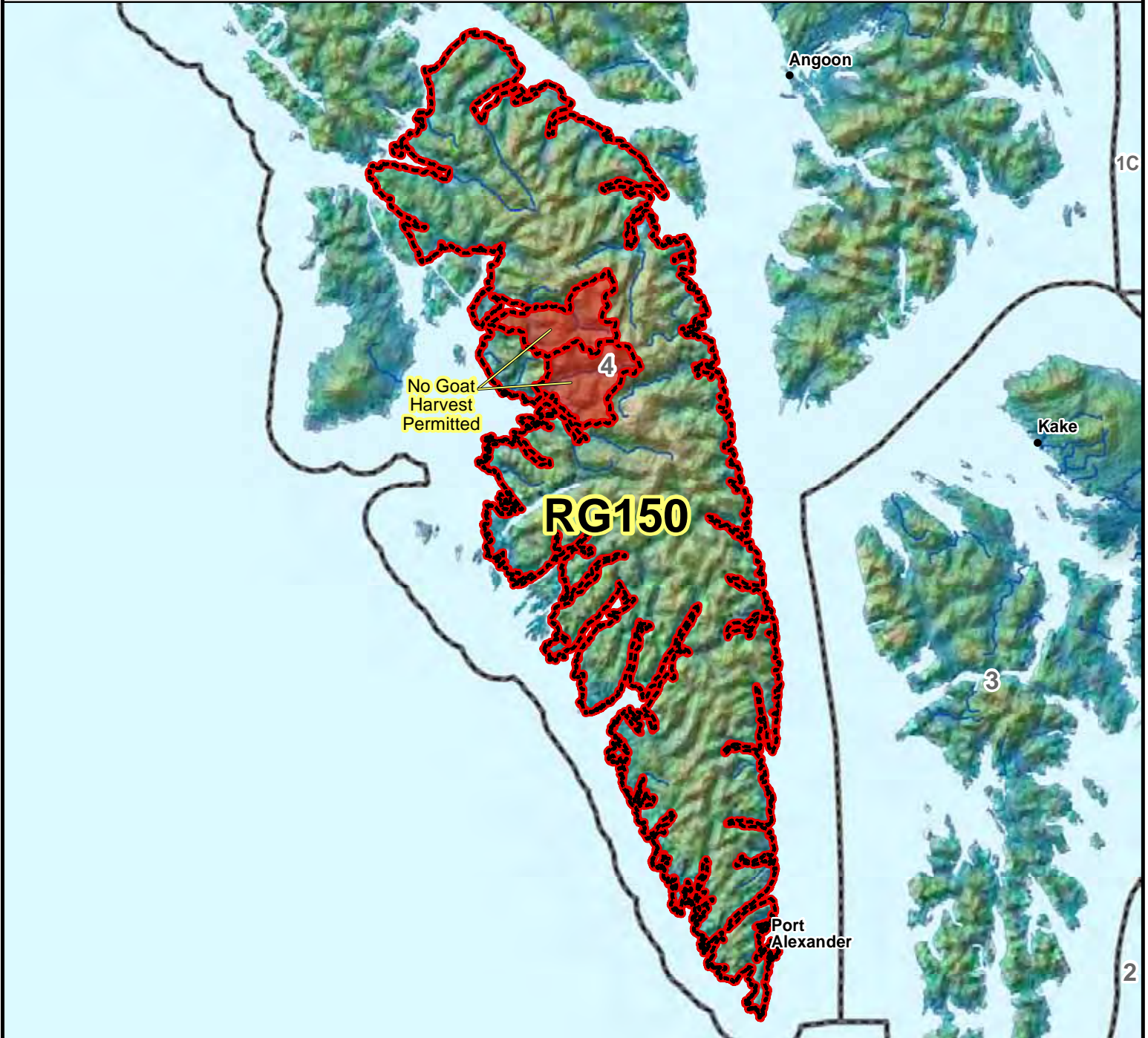
Unit 4, Baranof Island:

Southern Katlian River drainage - NO GOAT HARVEST PERMITTED

Blue Lake and Medvejie Lake drainages - NO GOAT HARVEST PERMITTED



RG150 Mountain Goat Registration Permit Hunt



Unit 4, Barrow of Alaska, excluding the southern Kaviyar River and Bag Lake and Medveje Lake drainages.

