

Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Doug Vincent-Lang, Acting 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

Tuesday, July 24, 2012

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 have areas closed to goat hunting for the 2012 season. The closed areas are: Blue Lake/Medvejie Lake drainages and the south fork of the Katlian River drainage.

An Emergency Order (01-01-12) was issued on July 24, 2012 which closes the mountain goat season in this area.

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. Survey data indicates a 21% decline in the multi-year average and a 42% decline since 2004. The number of kids per adult goats has declined 62%.
- A sustained nanny harvest ratio of 40% that occurred in an expanding population scenario cannot be sustained in a declining population situation.
- A trend indicating hunters are harvesting older 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 Nakwasina River.
- 66% of Baranof Island's goat population occurs from the Green Lake watershed to the north, which concentrates hunt effort in a smaller geographical area.
- Even with educational efforts to inform hunters about the effects of harvesting nannies, the last five seasons (2007-2011) produced an average nanny harvest of 40% with a high of 61% in the 2009 season.
- Recent location information retrieved from radio-collared goats in the Blue Lake area indicates 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 6 years, with a maximum point total as a guideline harvest cap in watersheds and geographical zones. The 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, the Federal subsistence in-season manager, to develop a management plan which addresses the conservation concerns for this mountain goat population.

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 a hunt report and goat horns for age and sex identification, within 5 days of the kill. Unsuccessful hunters and hunters who registered but did not hunt must return completed hunt reports to the ADF&G office in Sitka by the close of business January 15, 2013.

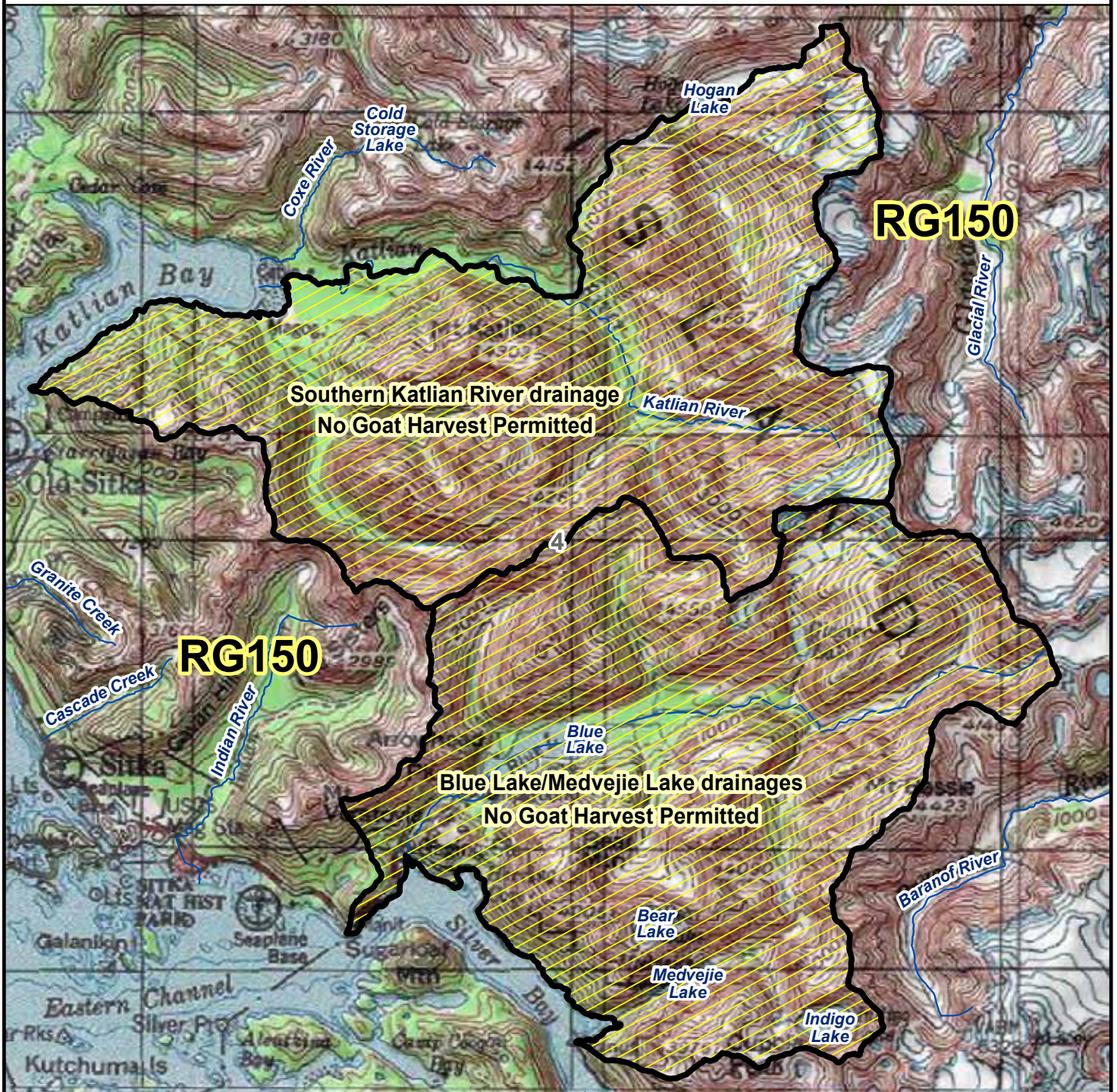
Please contact the Sitka area office at 747-5449 if you have any questions.

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RG150 - Mountain Goat

S. Katlian R. and Blue/Medvejie Lakes Drainages

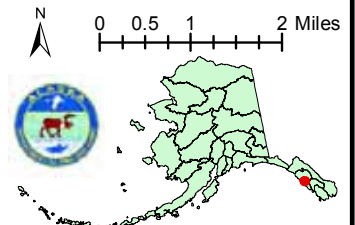
NO GOAT HARVEST PERMITTED



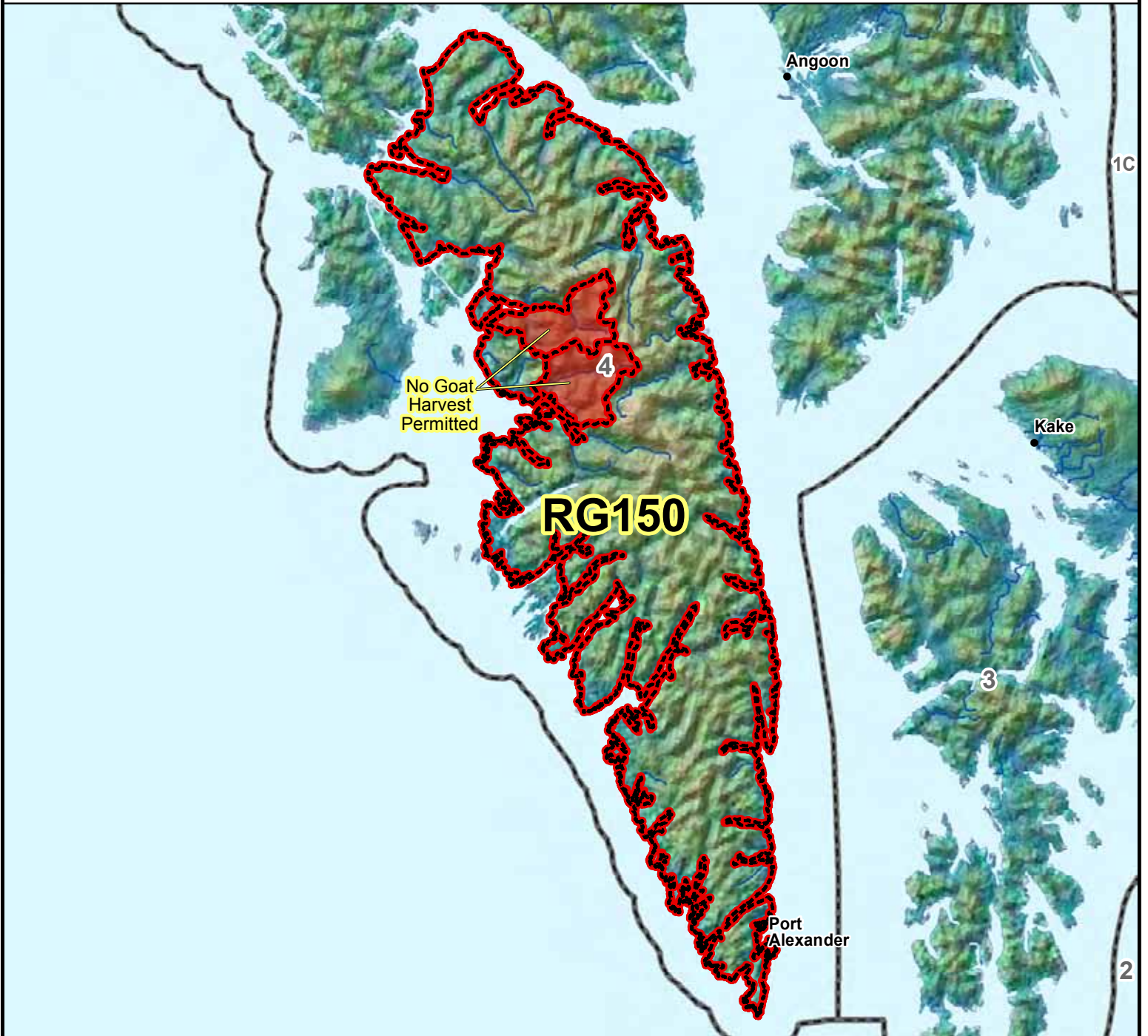
Unit 4, Baranof Island:

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, Baranof Island, excluding the southern Katlian River drainage and Blue Lake and Medvejie Lake drainages.

