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PRESS RELEASE

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Eagle Glacier to Sawmill Creek Closed to Mountain Goat Hunting in Unit 1C

(Juneau) – Biologists with the Alaska Department of Fish & Game in Douglas announce an early closure to the mountain goat hunting season under the state registration permit hunt RG012, for that portion of Unit 1C from Eagle Glacier to Sawmill Creek.

An aerial survey conducted on September 19, 2012 in the area between Eagle Glacier and Sawmill Creek in Unit 1C resulted in low goat counts, and a continued declining trend since the severe winters of 2006-2009. During winter 2011 we again experienced extremely deep snow in this area likely leading to additional mortality that led to declining goat numbers. Only 60 adult goats were observed during the survey. While goats are not isolated in these areas historical survey data and recent GPS radio collar information suggests little movement between drainages, which causes us concern for taking goats from this area given the declining numbers. Based on the few goats available for harvest in this area, the high harvest of goats from a single drainage during the last regulatory year, and vulnerability from the Juneau road system, managers consider it necessary to close this season to prevent any harvest of mountain goats from this area.

An Emergency Order (01-05-12) was issued that closes the mountain goat season in this area on Sunday, September 30, 2012 @ 11:59 pm.

The remaining area of registration mountain goat hunt RG012 and all other mountain goat hunting regulations in Unit 1C remain unchanged and are not affected by this Emergency Order.