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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Goat Hunt Closes North of Valdez Arm**

-(Cordova)- Registration permit hunt RG249 for mountain goats in Game Management Subunit 6D will close at 11:59 p.m. on October 17 by emergency order of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Hunt area RG249 includes areas east of Columbia Glacier, north of Valdez Arm and west of Port Valdez, Shoup Bay and Shoup Glacier.

Aerial surveys conducted this season found a minimum count of 381 goats in registration permit area RG249. The department increased the maximum allowable state harvest to 15 goat units and an additional harvest of four goat units for federal subsistence hunters (19 goat units total). Additional take beyond the harvest objective could harm the long-term stability of the mountain goat population.

The harvest is currently at 10 billies and two nannies, totaling 14 goat units. Nannies count as two goat units and billies count as one goat unit towards the harvest objective. Hunters are currently in the field, and it is likely that additional goats have been taken and not yet reported. This closure is necessary to prevent unsustainable harvest.

This closure affects only registration permit hunt RG249 in subunit 6D. All other mountain goat hunting regulations in the remainder of Game Management Unit 6 are not affected by this emergency order.

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