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 and Eagle River to Sawmill Creek.

An aerial survey conducted on September 24, 2014 in the area between Eagle Glacier and Sawmill Creek resulted in low goat counts; a total of 49 goats were observed. Surveys in the same area in 2012 resulted in 60 goats, and 30 goats in 2013. In addition to the low goat numbers, there were also few kid goats observed; 14 in 2012 and 4 in 2013. Goat numbers began declining in the area after the severe winter of 2006/2007. Since then we have had several additional winters with above average snowfall likely leading to additional mortality and the continued decline in goat numbers. While goats are not isolated in these areas, historical survey data and recent GPS radio collar information suggests little movement between drainages, which causes concern for taking goats from the area given the declining numbers. Because of these reasons, area managers consider it necessary to close the season in this area to prevent any harvest of mountain goats.

An Emergency Order (01-07-15) was issued that closes the mountain goat season in this area on Thursday, October 01, 2015 @ 11:59 pm.

The remaining area of registration mountain goat hunt RG012, the area east of Sawmill Creek to Antler Lake, and all other mountain goat hunting regulations in Unit 1C remain unchanged and are not affected by this Emergency Order.