

Note: Proposal 139 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Statewide Regulations meeting in March 2016.

PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 85.040(a)(7). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat. Change the nonresident registration goat hunts in Unit 14C, Lake George area, to drawing hunts as follows:

<u>Units and Bag Limits</u>	<u>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</u>	<u>Nonresident Open Season</u>
-----------------------------	---	------------------------------------

(7)

...

Remainder of Unit 14(C)

RESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 goat by registration permit only; however, goats may be taken from Aug. 16 through Aug. 31 by bow and arrow only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

Aug. 16 — Nov. 30
(General hunt only)

NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:

1 goat by **drawing** [REGISTRATION] permit only; and by bow and arrow only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or

Aug. 16 — Aug. 31

1 goat by **drawing** [REGISTRATION] permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

Sept. 1 — Oct. 15

...

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

The Lake George Area is the most popular goat hunting area in Unit 14C and supports the largest numbers of goats in the unit (e.g., minimum count surveys in 2011 documented 440 goats observed). Historically, most hunting in Lake George has been managed by registration permits. Since 2002 there have been numerous changes to hunting regulations governing the Lake George area to address overharvest while maximizing hunting opportunity.

Beginning in 2002, participation in goat registration hunts in Unit 14C, specifically the Lake George area, increased dramatically following changes to goat hunts on the Kenai Peninsula, with drawing hunts August 10–October 15 and a late season registration hunt November 1–

November 30. As a result, the only early season registration goat hunts available in the area were in Units 14A and 14C. Hunter participation, specifically by guided nonresident hunters, increased rapidly for these registration hunts. By 2005, most registration hunts in the Lake George Area closed within 2 weeks of opening due to harvest quotas being met. In 2005 and 2006, harvest exceeded desired quotas in Unit 14C. As a result, in 2007 the Board of Game approved a department proposal to change the registration goat hunts in Unit 14C to drawing permit hunts, to be followed by late season registration permit hunts if quotas were not met. The new hunts began in the 2008 season, and the Unit 14A goat hunt changed from a registration permit hunt to a drawing permit hunt the same year. In 2009, the board changed the permit hunt in Lake George to a drawing hunt for nonresident hunters and a registration hunt for residents. In 2011, the board converted the nonresident drawing permit hunt back to a registration permit hunt with a separate quota from the resident registration permit hunt.

Under this new harvest regime, the nonresident hunts were closed annually after about a week of harvest, but nonresident hunters continue to exceed their portion of the quota (Table 1). The registration hunt model does not allow for timely management of harvest. The department cannot regulate the nonresident harvest of goats sufficiently to conform to the board’s allocation. The intent of this proposal is to return the nonresident registration goat hunts in the Lake George area to drawing permit hunts to give management biologists a better tool to achieve the board’s allocation for goat harvest.

Table 1.

Regulatory Year	Nonresident Quota	Goat Units Harvested
2012-13	8	10
2013-14	7	10
2014-15	7	12

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

(HQ-2016-ACR17)
