

Division of Wildlife Conservation
Bruce Dale, Director
Region II, Cordova Area Office
PO Box 669
Cordova, AK 99574



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Sam Cotten, Commissioner
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

PRESS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Charlotte Westing
Area Wildlife Biologist
(907) 424-3215
charlotte.westing@alaska.gov

Goat Hunt Closes North of Valdez Arm

(Cordova)- Registration permit hunt RG249 for mountain goats in Unit 6D will close at 11:59 p.m. on October 6 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 last 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 4 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. According to Cordova Area Biologist Charlotte Westing, the harvest is currently at 10 billies, 2 nannies, and 1 unrecovered goats totaling 15.5 goat units. Nannies count as 2 goat units, billies count as 1 goat unit, and unrecovered goats count as 1.5 units towards the harvest objective. Hunters are currently in the field, and therefore 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 Unit 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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