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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Registration Permits Now Available for Goat Hunts in Game Management Unit 14C**

(Anchorage) – Permits for registration mountain goat hunts RG868 and RG881 in the Twentymile River hunt area, and RG869 and RG882 in the Lake George hunt area, are available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or in person at Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices in Anchorage, Palmer, and Soldotna.

A survey of the Lake George hunt area conducted in July indicated the hunt area contains a minimum of 315 goats, 21 percent of which are kids. While viewing conditions were good, warmer air temperatures during the survey could have driven goats into lower elevations dominated by alders. In addition, some small drainages were inaccessible due to turbulence. As a result, detections may have been reduced. Surveys were not conducted in the Twentymile River hunt area due to poor conditions. However, given recent mild winters significant changes to the population are not expected.

The department's area management objectives provide for a sustainable annual harvest of 6 percent comprised of at least 60 percent billies. To maintain that subunit goal, the Lake George area has a maximum allowable harvest of 18 goat units and Twentymile has a maximum allowable harvest of six goat units. Total goat units are calculated using one unit for billies and two units for nannies.

Goats in the Lake George and Twentymile areas are managed through separate registration hunts for resident and nonresident hunters. For the Lake George area, the Board of Game (BOG) has allotted resident hunters 65 percent (12 goat units) of available goat units and nonresident hunters 35 percent (six goat units).

Nonresident hunters in the Lake George area have exceeded maximum allowable harvest within a few days of the season opening during each of the last four years. To minimize overharvest, the nonresident season in the Lake George hunt area (RG882 only) will be September 1-3, 2016.

In the Twentymile hunt area, the BOG has allotted resident hunters 95 percent (seven goat units) of available goat units and nonresident hunters 5 percent (one goat unit).

For more information concerning these registration hunts, contact Anchorage Area Wildlife Biologist David Battle at (907) 267-2185 or Assistant Area Wildlife Biologist Cory Stantorf at (907) 267-2811.

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