

PROPOSAL 23

5 AAC 85.040(a)(1). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Expand the archery-only registration permit hunt area for goat in Unit 1C as follows:

5 AAC 85.040(a)(1) Seasons and bag limits for goat in Unit 1C: That portion of Unit 1C to include all mainland areas between the south bank of the Mendenhall River and the Mendenhall Glacier and south to the western bank of Taku Inlet and Taku Glacier. 1 goat by permit and bow and arrow only. The taking of nannies with kids is prohibited Aug. 1–Nov. 30.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Expand the Unit 1C archery-only registration permit (RG014) hunt area to include all mainland areas between the south bank of the Mendenhall River and the Mendenhall Glacier and south to the western bank of Taku Inlet and Taku Glacier.

During the last Southeast Region Board of Game (board) cycle, the board voted to expand this area to include a small portion of Blackerby Ridge. This new area is described as follows: "That portion between the south side of Blackerby Ridge and the north side of Salmon Creek Reservoir, above the 1,000 ft contour and east to Observation Peak."

Expanding this hunt area using the above boundary lines would open up a large area to hunting opportunity that has not previously been open, to my knowledge. This area would include Mount Bullard, Thunder Mountain, Heintzelman Ridge, all of Blackerby Ridge, Mount Juneau, Mount Roberts and areas in between.

Adopting this new boundary area would also simplify the boundary areas for this hunt, making it dramatically easier to understand for hunters from the current boundaries.

Juneau is an area that is fortunate to have a relatively large population of goats that could be accessed via the road system without the need to charter an aircraft or use a boat. Based on my own observations, it appears that there is an ample population of goats that could sustain some level of harvest. I believe the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) could manage this hunt utilizing their point system, as to allow harvest while still allowing other user groups (hikers, tourism industry) the ability to enjoy and view these animals. This hunt would also be self-limiting to some degree since it is an archery-only hunt and does not experience the same level of effort that any weapon hunts generally do. With the exception of the Blackerby Ridge area, which currently has a harvest objective of 1–2 points, the current registration area has rarely, if ever, met the maximum harvest objective. This is, in part, due to the difficulty in accessing the current area.

In short, I believe the current archery only registration area in Unit 1C (permit hunt RG014) could be expanded to include all areas between the Mendenhall River/Glacier and Taku Inlet/Glacier. This would allow hunters who do not own a boat or cannot afford to charter a plane the ability to have more hunting opportunities for goats.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Abbott

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