

PROPOSAL 61

5 AAC 85.040(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Establish a new drawing hunt for goats near Seldovia in Unit 15C as follows:

Units and Bag Limits	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
(3) Unit 15(C), that portion beginning at the mouth of Jackalof Creek, then southwesterly along the shore of Kachemak Bay to the mouth of the Port Graham River, then southeasterly up the Port Graham River approximately 6 miles, then southerly up the south fork to the divide, then easterly across the divide to the main drainage that flows into Windy Bay, then southeasterly down the creek to Windy Bay, then easterly along the shoreline to the mouth of Rocky River, then northerly up the Rocky River and Windy River to the divide separating Windy River from Jackalof Creek, then across that divide to Jackalof Creek, then down Jackalof Creek to the point of origin	<u>Aug. 10—Oct. 15</u> <u>(General hunt only)</u>	No open season
<u>1 goat by drawing permit only; however, if a nanny is taken, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or</u>	Aug. 10—Oct. 15 Nov. 1—Nov. 30	No open season.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Mountain goat population levels are increasing in the Seldovia hunt area located in Unit 15C, as documented by an increase in minimum count numbers. The Department of Fish and Game (department) has increased the number of registration permits available as the population has increased. These permits are currently only available in Seldovia, one specific day each year, and must be picked up in person. Harvest has not increased with increased permit quantities and in recent years all available permits have not been distributed. Establishing a drawing hunt in this area allows the department to issue permits during years the area can support additional harvest beyond current levels. By establishing a drawing permit option in this area, both hunter opportunity and harvest will increase.

For consistency within the unit and to increase future harvest opportunity, this proposal also requests the addition of a restriction on hunters who harvest a nanny. Hunters who harvest a nanny in the new drawing hunt would be prohibited from harvesting a goat on the Kenai Peninsula (Units 7 and 15) for five regulatory years. This regulation was adopted in 2009 for Unit 7 and the Remainder of Unit 15 and applied to both drawing and registration permits.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-043)
