

ADF&G Boards Support Section
ATTN: BOG comments
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: proposal to allow bow hunting of mountain goats on the ridges near Juneau

The Mt Bullard area has been closed to goat hunting for years. It should definitely remain closed! Goat-watching is a very popular activity there, especially near Nugget Falls, and photographers love it too. Hunting goats there would reduce the population, of course, and probably change the movement patterns, and so it would spoil the fun for everyone except for some hunters. That is not a good balance!

Concerning the rest of the area: Goats move around from ridge to ridge. So what happens on Mt Juneau or down near Taku affects what happens elsewhere in the area: specifically, a general reduction of goat numbers in the area would affect the Mt Bullard area too (see above paragraph). Furthermore, the population of goats in the area appears to have declined. Hunting a population that is apparently unstable is not a good idea if keeping goats around is desirable (and it certainly is).

I strongly oppose the proposal to allow increased hunting of goats in our area.



Mary F. Willson
Ecologist