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PRESS RELEASE

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Game Management Unit 14C Registration Goat Hunting Permits Available August 12

(Anchorage) – Permits for registration mountain goat hunts RG868 and RG881 in the Twentymile hunt area and RG869 and RG882 in the Lake George hunt area will be available online at http://hunt.alaska.gov or in person at Alaska Department of Fish and Game offices in Anchorage, Palmer, and Soldotna beginning August 12.

A July mountain goat survey in Game Management Unit 14C found healthy numbers with an overall minimum tally of 852 goats, including 22 percent kids. Surveys in the Lake George area found 471 goats, with 21 percent kids, and in the Twentymile area 135 goats were counted, including 24 percent kids.

The department's area management objectives provide for a sustainable annual harvest of 5 percent comprised of at least 60 percent billies. To maintain that goal, the Lake George registration hunt area has been assigned a maximum allowable harvest of 23 "goat units" while the Twentymile has a maximum allowable harvest of six goat units. Total goat units are calculated using one unit for billies and two 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 has allotted resident hunters 65 percent (15 goat units) of the available harvest, and nonresident hunters 35 percent (eight goat units). In 2014, the maximum allowable harvest was exceeded and subsequently subtracted from this year's allotment; this fall, resident hunters are allocated 14 goat units and nonresident hunters three goat units.

In addition, nonresident hunters in the Lake George area last year exceeded the maximum allowable harvest within two days of the season opening. To minimize overharvest, the nonresident season in the Lake George hunt area (RG882) will only be open September 1-3.

In the Twentymile hunt area, the board has allotted resident hunters 95 percent (five goat units) of the available harvest 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.