

Division of Wildlife Conservation
Bruce Dale, Director
Region II – Southcentral Alaska
333 Raspberry Road
Anchorage, AK 99518



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Sam Cotten, Commissioner
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
www.adfg.alaska.gov

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: October 26, 2016

CONTACT: Nathan Svoboda
Area Management Biologist
Kodiak, (907) 486-1880

Three Kodiak Mountain Goat Registration Hunts to Remain Closed; Four Others Open Nov. 1

(Kodiak) – Three popular Kodiak Island registration mountain goat hunts will not open this year because drawing hunt harvests earlier this fall have already met quotas established by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, but four hunts are scheduled to open November 1.

Registration hunts that will not open include RG472 (Crown Mountain), RG473 (Hidden Basin - East Terror Lake), and RG474 (Uganik River). Mild, relatively dry weather during the drawing hunt seasons created optimal hunting conditions resulting in a high hunter success rate.

The registration hunts scheduled to open include RG471 (Port Lions), RG476 (Old Harbor), RG478 (bow hunters only), and RG479 (bow hunters only). To participate in either of the first two hunts, hunters must first pick up a permit in the tribal offices of the village closest to the hunt area – either Port Lions or Old Harbor. Registration hunts RG478 (South Road System) and RG479 (North Road System) are archery only.

Registration hunt RG480 (southwest Kodiak) opened August 20 and will remain open. Permits for RG478, RG479, and RG480 can be picked up in person at department offices in Palmer, Anchorage, Homer, Soldotna or Kodiak; or online at https://secure.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?fuseaction=interperm.issue_permit_greeting&_ga=1.231797983.1159294538.1445963145

All four hunts will open November 1, but hunters are encouraged to contact the department's Kodiak office prior to hunting to check individual hunt status.

Eight Kodiak Island mountain goat hunt areas are currently managed by drawing and/or registration permits. Goat harvest quotas are established annually for each hunt area. Harvest quotas in individual permit areas range from 5 percent to 20 percent. If harvest quota objectives are not met during the drawing permit season, registration permits are issued. In the southwestern part of Kodiak (RG480), where goat populations are expanding, liberal hunting regulations allow a seven-month

registration hunt with a two-goat bag limit for resident and nonresident hunters. Hunters intending to take two goats must get two permits and report on both individually.

The mountain goat population on Kodiak originated from 11 females and seven males moved from the Kenai Peninsula to the Hidden Basin area in 1952 and 1953. The first hunting season was authorized in 1968, and permits have been issued each year since with permit numbers and open areas changing to reflect population trends and goat movements. Mountain goats currently occupy all available goat habitats on the island, and goats have been confirmed as far southwest as Halibut Bay and Akalura Lake. Based on data from comprehensive aerial surveys, Kodiak Island's goat population is estimated at approximately 2,700.

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