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## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release: September 13, 2017*

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# **CLOSURE TO MOUNTAIN GOAT HUNTING IN THE SKAGWAY PIE ARCHERY ONLY AREA (RG024)**

Consecutive aerial surveys of the archery-only hunt area for RG024 between the Taiya Inlet and River and the White Pass and Yukon Railroads to the Canadian border (commonly referred to as the Skagway Pie) found relatively few mountain goats. The number of goats ranged from 12 adults and 6 kids during the September 7, 2015 survey to 27 adults and 9 kids during the September 11, 2016 survey. Those counts are down from 99 adults and 19 kids found during the 2008 survey. The number of adults counted during the last two years was 72–87% lower than the count in 2008 when the season was reopened. Due to low goat numbers observed and the vulnerability of goats in this area to hunters, an emergency order (01-06-17) is being issued to close the RG024 goat hunting season at 11:59 pm on September 14, 2017.

Those portions of Unit 1D not affected by this emergency order, and not previously closed, will remain open until the harvest guidelines are reached or the seasons come to their scheduled conclusions.

Biologists with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game encourage hunters to target male goats to allow for a higher sustainable harvest. Hunters with questions about goat hunting can contact Carl Koch, in the Douglas Area Office at 907-465-4329.

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