

**PROPOSAL 110**

**5 AAC 85.040(a)(7). Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.**

Modify the nonresident bow and arrow goat hunt structure in the Lake George area in Unit 14C from a drawing hunt to a registration hunt as follows:

<b>Units and Bag Limits</b>	<b>Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)</b>	<b>Nonresident Open Season</b>
(7)		
...		
Remainder of Unit 14(C)		
<b>RESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 goat by registration permit only; however, goats may be taken from Aug. 16 through Aug. 31 by bow and arrow only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited	Aug. 16—Nov. 30 (General hunt only)	
<b>NONRESIDENT HUNTERS:</b>		
1 goat by <b>registration</b> [DRAWING] permit only, and by bow and arrow only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited; or		Aug. 16—Aug. 31
1 goat by drawing permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited		Sept. 1—Oct. 15
...		

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal is to change the nonresident bow and arrow goat season in Lake George (Unit 14C) from a drawing permit to a registration permit. This hunt was previously administered as a registration permit until regulatory year 2017–18, when it became a drawing permit.

At the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting, both the nonresident bow and arrow goat hunt and the nonresident unrestricted weapons goat hunt were converted from registration hunts into drawing hunts for the remainder of Unit 14C, specifically the Lake George area. This created nonresident goat hunts DG888 (bow and arrow only) and DG889 (unrestricted weapons) and was

in response to a Department of Fish and Game (department) proposal, as the nonresident unrestricted weapons registration hunt was continually exceeding the set harvest quota.

The Lake George area is the most popular goat hunting area in Unit 14C and supports the largest numbers of goats in the unit. A 2015 minimum count survey of all goat areas in Unit 14C documented that 471 out of 877 goats observed were in the Lake George area. The department manages goats in this area at a harvest rate of 5%.

The bow and arrow hunts in the Lake George area have rarely produced any harvest, from either resident or nonresident hunters (RG879, residents only; DG888, nonresidents only). Changing the nonresident bow and arrow drawing hunt back into a registration permit with permits available online or in-person in Anchorage, Palmer and Soldotna would expand opportunity for goat hunters. The department does not currently have a conservation concern based on bow and arrow harvest of goats in this area and liberalizing the permit structure should not drastically change harvest rates. Harvest would be evaluated against the quota set for each year. If harvest were to exceed the quota, hunts could be closed by emergency order.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F18-035)

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