

PROPOSAL 114

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Change the RG331 goat hunt in Unit 7 to an archery only hunt as follows:

RG331 - 1 goat by **Bow and Arrow only for certified bowhunters**, by permit available online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov> or in person in Anchorage, Homer, Palmer, and Soldotna beginning Oct 27 (only selected areas open)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? RG 331 does not appear to have been opened for several years but does have a resident goat population. Much of the unit also lies within close proximity to very popular hiking and biking trails and is also close to the community of Hope. In addition there are essentially no road accessible registration goat hunting opportunities for archery hunters in the Chugach and Kenai Mountains. Changing RG331 to archery only would allow for increased hunter opportunity, decrease user conflict but avoiding the loud discharges and perceived danger or long range weapons in close proximity to popular trails and community, and would likely have very little impact on the local goat population based on harvest success rates of archery goat hunts. Finally, archery hunters are much less likely to inadvertently harvest a nanny because of the extended amounts of close range observation required to successfully take a goat with a bow.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward

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