

## **PROPOSAL 43**

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

Increase the resident bag limit to two goats in Unit 1A as follows:

We propose to allow Alaska residents the opportunity to harvest a second mountain goat in the defined area of RG001, Unit 1A.

- a) Resident Open Season (Subsistence and Nonresident Units and Bag Limits General Hunts) Open Season (1) Unit 1(A), Revillagigedo Aug. 1 - Dec. 31 Aug. 1 - Dec. 31 Island, except that portion (General hunt only) south and west from Donnelly Point to Naha Bay, Roosevelt Lagoon, Naha River, and Heckman Lake, the divide between Heckman Lake and the head of Salt Lagoon and the western shores of Salt Lagoon and George Inlet to Mountain Point 1 goat by registration permit only; the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited Unit 1(A)
- b) **For Alaska residents, a second mountain goat registration permit (Unit 1A) may only be issued if the goat harvested with the first registration permit was a billy. For those hunters who harvested their first goat in Unit 1A the pursuit of a second goat can't occur in the TCA (Trend Count Area) of the original harvest. Taking of nannies with kids is prohibited in Unit 1A.**
- c) **Resident hunters looking to pursue a second goat can receive a second registration permit after presenting the harvest record or sealing documents from their first harvest to ADF&G in Ketchikan.**

If adopted an Alaska resident is only allowed to be issued and in possession of one RG001 goat permit at one time. A second RG001 goat permit will be issued only after successful harvest and sealing of a male mountain goat. If a female goat is harvested on the first permit the hunter is ineligible to receive a second permit. If a second permit is issued the hunter would be unable to hunt in the trend count area (TCA) of the first harvest. The second permit must be hunted in another TCA. The change in regulation would not prevent a hunter from harvesting a female mountain goat with the first permit. It would prevent a hunter who did harvest a female goat on their first registration permit from being issued a second. The second permit would allow for harvest of a male or female goat, harvesting of a female goat with kids is prohibited.

It is our belief that if the board was to implement this change to regulation the increase in hunting pressure and harvest would be minimal. Due to well established limitations such as access, weather, time and resources, only a few local residents would consider and pursue this additional harvest opportunity. For those that would pursue a second mountain goat, it would be another opportunity to secure high quality protein and could lead to distributing effort to other less traditional areas.

For local hunters the ability to harvest a second mountain goat while being required to hunt in a different TCU could lead some hunters to explore and pioneer new areas. Pioneering of new areas utilized by mountain goats will better distribute hunting pressure and help to maintain the aesthetics of the hunt for more individuals. Boots on the ground and the information derived from exploring new hunting grounds would be of value to local wildlife managers.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee would like to increase the bag limit for goats in Unit 1A for Alaska residents

to two goats.

Mountain goats are the most under-utilized game species in Unit 1A. Recent modifications in management, namely expanding the number of TCAs from 14 to 43, the use of a sightability correction model and harvest based on a sliding scale are expected to increase harvest opportunity. Modifications in management with current sealing requirements will allow for TCAs to be closed by emergency order when harvest warrants, thus protecting potentially vulnerable populations while maintaining harvest opportunity in other TCAs.

Unit 1A has three distinct goat populations. Two mainland populations are considered native to the Cleveland Peninsula and Misty Fjords. The third population was introduced to Revillagigedo Island from plants in 1983 and 1991. Populations resultant from the plants currently provide registration and draw permit opportunity. Goats are currently distributed throughout all suitable habitat on Revillagigedo. Modifications in management will also allow for the harvest of a greater percentage of the population of an introduced population vs. a native population. Local resident hunters are the largest group currently pursuing mountain goats. From 2013-2017 they represented 50% of successful hunters for an annual average of 16 harvests.

Due to loss of deer hunting opportunity on federal land on Prince of Wales and increasing pressure on Gravina Island and Revillagigedo Island, mountain goats provide a viable hunting opportunity to put meat on one's table and in the freezer for local resident hunters.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ketchikan Fish and Game Advisory Committee

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