

**PROPOSAL 66**

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

Create an archery only, resident goat hunt within the Unit 8, RG480 hunt area as follows:

I propose that ADF&G work with area biologists to create an archery only area within the RG480 hunt. Some of the more popular float plane lake destinations would be good candidates as would the Hepburn Peninsula that gets heavy pressure from boat based hunters.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** RG480 is a wonderful opportunity for Alaska residents to hunt mountain goats in a sustainable way. Unfortunately, some areas of the RG480 area get hunted very hard while others see very little traffic, and thus less of the intended population reduction. One solution for this would be to create an archery only area within RG480. Choosing a more high traffic area for the archery only area would decrease traffic, pressure and harvest in that area while increasing hunting pressure in other, currently less utilized areas, thus spreading out the overall harvest and hunting pressure.

This would also create a wonderful opportunity for Alaskans who would enjoy the challenge of more safely hunting mountain goats with archery equipment away from the pressure and hazards associated with rifle hunters being in the same area.

As with all archery only hunts, it should be reiterated that this hunt would not decrease any hunting opportunity for any Alaska resident. It would simply require that hunters who wish to use these areas do so with archery equipment.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward

(EG-F22-151)

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