



Federal Subsistence Board



1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

FISH and WILDLIFE SERVICE
BUREAU of LAND MANAGEMENT
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
BUREAU of INDIAN AFFAIRS

FOREST SERVICE

WHALE BAY ZONE ON BARANOF ISLAND IN UNIT 4 IS CLOSED TO THE HARVEST OF MOUNTAIN GOATS

TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION: FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE BOARD

Under authority of: 36 CFR §242.10 and .19
50 CFR §100.10 and .19

Temporary Special Action No: 13-MG-10-22
Issued at: Sitka Alaska, November 29, 2022

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m. Wednesday, November 30, 2022
Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday, December 31, 2022 unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION:

This Temporary Special Action closes the Whale Bay Zone on Baranof Island near Sitka, Alaska to the harvest of mountain goats.

REGULATION: 36 CFR §242.26(n)(4) and 50 CFR §100.26(n)(4) are amended to read:

Unit 4 – Mountain Goat

1 goat by State registration permit only.

Aug. 1 - Dec. 31

South Baranof - Drainages south of Gut Bay and the east branch of Great Arm Whale Bay and their respective inlet streams; and north of the divide between Larch Bay and Port Conclusion.

Closed

Lisa Creek – Drainages north of Katlian Bay, west of Coxe River, east of Nakwasina Sound and south of Nakwasina River downstream of Cold Storage Lake pass, but excluding the Lisianski Peninsula. Closed

Rosenberg Lake – North fork Nakwasina River drainages upstream of the Peak 3098 creek confluence, south of the north fork Nakwasina River downstream of the Peak 3098 creek confluence, and Rosenberg Lake/Creek drainages. Closed

Bear Mountain – Silver Bay drainages between Sawmill and Medvejie Creeks, South of Blue Lake/Creek, west of the south fork Blue Lake Creek and northwest of Medvejie Creek to Baranof Pass. Closed

Upper Blue Lake – Drainages of north fork Blue Lake Creek, east of the Glacier Lake outflow, east of south fork Blue Lake Creek and north of Baranof Pass (west side Mt. Bassie) Closed

Clarence Kramer – Drainages north of Blue Lake/Creek between Glacier Lake outflow and Clarence Creek, including Clarence Kramer Peak. Closed

Indian River – Drainages of Sitka Sound between Katlian River and Sawmill Creek, north of Sawmill Creek, south of south fork Katlian River and west of Clarence Creek, including Indian River, Granite Creek, Starrigavan Creek, and the Mt. Verstovia/Arrowhead ridge Closed

Whale Bay – Drainages east of Small Arm Whale Bay/Creek, east of Benzeman Lake, west of Great Arm Whale Bay/Creek to the pass at Peak 2907 and drainages of Politofski Lake. Closed

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to /s/Eric Garner
Eric Garner
District Ranger
Sitka Ranger District
November 29, 2022

JUSTIFICATION:

Based on aerial surveys, historical harvest and vulnerability to harvest, biologists have set a maximum guideline harvest objective of three male goats or one female goat for the combined Whale Bay and Necker Bay zones. As of Friday November, 25, five male goats have been harvested between the two zones. Further mountain goat harvest in this zone would have negative effects to the long-term conservation of the mountain goat subpopulation and could lead to decreased hunting opportunity.

Data from collared goats near Sitka documented that goats have high fidelity to small home ranges and are slow to recolonize vacant habitat. That finding combined with high localized harvest in more accessible areas led managers to develop an updated management strategy for mountain goats on Baranof Island beginning with the 2017 season. Baranof Island was divided into 34 small hunt zones. Dividing Baranof Island into more zones allows biologists to manage at the subpopulation level, affording hunters more opportunities and reducing the possibility of localized overharvest. Under the previous management strategy, quotas were based on larger geographical areas, which sometimes included several subpopulations. The quota for a large zone could be reached after several goats were taken from a single access point. That resulted in the large area being closed while additional harvest opportunity remained in more remote portions of that larger zone. This new strategy of subdividing large zones is providing more opportunity for hunters by allowing more remote zones to stay open after zones with easier access close.

A public hearing to discuss the 2022 Baranof Island mountain goat management strategy was held on July 25, 2022 in Sitka, Alaska. Members of the public who attended were supportive of conserving mountain goats on Baranof Island through closures guided by the management strategy. The 2022 strategy is similar to the 2021 strategy with distinct male and female guideline harvest levels by zone. Female harvest is more restrictive than male harvest when applied to the guideline harvest levels. As the guideline harvest levels in each of the zones are reached, those zones will be closed to mountain goat harvest.

The remainder of Baranof Island will remain open for goat hunting unless closed by past or future special action. Future special actions may also be issued to reopen zones if it is determined that those subpopulations could withstand harvest.

DISTRIBUTION:

RADIO

KHOO Radio-Hoonah Community FM Radio; KCAW radio – Sitka; KIFW radio – Sitka; KSBZ radio – Sitka

NEWSPAPERS

Sitka Daily Sentinel

TELEVISION

KSCT LP – Sitka, KYNL DT – Sitka, Simulcasts KATH LP – Sitka

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS

Hoonah Indian Association; City of Hoonah; City of Tenakee; City of Sitka; Sitka Tribe of Alaska; City of Pelican, City of Angoon, Angoon Community Association; Don Hernandez, Southeast Regional Subsistence Advisory Council Chair; Stephen Bethune, ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation, Sitka; Ben Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner, ADF&G; Mark Burch, Special Projects Coordinator, ADF&G; Frank Sherman, Forest Supervisor, USFS-Ketchikan; Joseph Boggs, USFS Law Enforcement Officer, Petersburg; Paul Robbins Jr., Public Affairs Officer, USFS – Ketchikan; Sue Detweiler, Anee Howard, Theo Matuskowitz, Lisa Grediagin, Kayla McKinney, and George Pappas, Office of Subsistence Management - Anchorage; Greg Risdahl, Subsistence Program Leader, USFS-Anchorage; Rob Cross, Tongass Subsistence Program Leader, USFS-Sitka; DeAnna Perry, Subsistence Council Coordinator, USFS-Juneau; Alaska Department of Public Safety.