



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board News Release



For Immediate Release
September 28, 2011

Contact:
Jack Lorrigan
907- 747-4299
jlorrigan@fs.fed.us

Under the Authority of:

36 CFR Part 242.10 and .19
50 CFR Part 100.10 and .19

GREEN LAKE-VODOPAD RIVER DRAINAGE IS CLOSED TO THE HARVEST OF MOUNTAIN GOAT BY ALL USERS IN UNIT 4 (Baranof Island)

The Sitka District Ranger, under authority delegated by the Federal Subsistence Board, is taking action to close the Green Lake-Vodopad River watershed to the harvest of mountain goats by all users. The closure will be effective at 12:01 a.m., Thursday September 29, 2011 and will remain in effect for the remainder of the season, which runs through December 31, 2011. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has issued a closure in the same watershed, effective from 11:59 p.m., September 28, 2011 to the close of the season on December 31, 2011.

The nanny harvest quota as discussed in the 2011 Baranof Mountain Goat Management Plan for the watershed of the Green Lake-Vodopad River drainage has been met as of Monday, September 26, 2011. Any additional nanny harvest within the Green Lake-Vodopad River drainage would be detrimental to the long-term conservation of the mountain goat resource.

A public hearing was held on July 15, 2011 in Sitka, Alaska. The ability to teleconference was provided so residents of other affected communities in Unit 4 could participate in the hearing. During the public hearing, in addition to discussions about a previous special action, the management plan for the 2011 hunting season was also discussed. The management plan establishes smaller management units with distinct male and female goat harvest caps on Baranof Island. As harvest caps in each of the sub-management areas are reached, those areas would be closed to mountain goat harvest. Members of the public who attended this public hearing expressed support for conservation of mountain goats in the Sitka area through the proposed closure and application of the smaller geographic harvest point caps.

The remainder of Baranof Island (except those areas previously closed by Special Action or Emergency Order) will remain open for goat hunting but will be managed, as in the past 5 years, with a maximum point total as a guideline harvest cap. As in prior seasons, nanny harvest will be more restrictive than billy harvest when applied to the point total. If and when point totals are

met, additional special actions will be issued to close additional watershed and zones to prevent over-harvest of mountain goats.

A map and description of the closed areas are available from the Sitka Ranger District Office and the Sitka area office of ADFG. Information on federal subsistence management special actions for the Tongass National Forest can be found at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/subsistence/subsistence.shtml>. For additional information, contact Sitka Ranger District Subsistence Biologist Jack Lorrigan at 907-747-4299 or by email at jlorrigan@fs.fed.us.

-FSB-

Information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be found at <http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/home.html>.

###