



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**  
October 14, 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**

### **NORTH FORK OF KATLIAN RIVER 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 portions of hunt area RG150; (1) that portion including the north fork of the Katlian River and Coxe River drainages and, (2) that portion of the unnamed drainage west of the Coxe River and north of Cedar Cove that drains into Nakwasina Sound on Baranof Island in Game Management Unit 4 to the harvest of mountain goats by all users. The closure will be effective at 12:01 a.m., Saturday, October 15, 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 similar closure in the same watershed, effective from 11:59 p.m. Friday, October 14, 2011 to the close of the season on December 31, 2011.

The mountain goat harvest quota as discussed in the 2011 Baranof Mountain Goat Management Plan for the watershed of the north fork of the Katlian River watershed has been met as of Thursday, October 13, 2011. Any additional mountain goat harvest within the North Fork of the Katlian River watershed 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 five 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 watersheds 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 ADF&G. 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 [jlorrigan@fs.fed.us](mailto:jlorrigan@fs.fed.us).

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

###