



Federal Subsistence Board

1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
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NECKER BAY ZONE ON BARANOF ISLAND IN UNIT 4 IS CLOSED TO THE HARVEST OF MOUNTAIN GOATS

TEMPORARY SPECIAL ACTION

Under Authority of: 36 CFR 242.10 and .19
43 CFR 51.10 and .19

Temporary Special Action No: WSA 04-MG-02-26 Issued at: Sitka, Alaska, September 2, 2026

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, September 4, 2026

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Thursday, December 31, 2026, unless superseded by subsequent special action

EXPLANATION: This Temporary Special Action closes the 2026 Federal subsistence mountain goat season in Necker Bay – As defined by the peninsulas west of Small Arm Whale Bay/Creek, west of Benzeman Lake and southeast of Crawfish Inlet but excluding Aspin Cape. To date, two billies have been harvested in Necker Bay Zone meeting the harvest objective.

REGULATION: 36 CFR 242.26(n)(4) and 43 CFR 51.26(n)(4) are amended to read:

Unit 4 – Mountain Goat

1 goat by State registration permit only.

Aug. 1 – Dec. 31st

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

Necker Bay – The peninsulas west of Small Arm Whale Bay/Creek, west of Benzeman Lake and southeast of Crawfish Inlet but excluding Aspin Cape.

Closed

JUSTIFICATION:

Data from collared mountain goats near Sitka documented that goats have high fidelity to small home ranges and are slow to recolonize vacant habitat. This 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 to allow biologists to manage at the subpopulation level, affording hunters more opportunities and reducing localized overharvest. Under the previous management strategy, quotas were based on large 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. This resulted in the entire area being closed even though harvest opportunity remained in the more remote portions of the large zone. Subdividing large zones into smaller zones is providing more opportunity for hunters in the more remote zones after zones with easier access close.

To date, two male mountain goats have been harvested from Necker Bay zone. Additional mountain goat harvest in this zone could have long term negative effects on the conservation of the mountain goat subpopulation. The remainder of Baranof Island is open to goat hunting until the season closes, unless closed by special action. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game issued a concurrent closure in the same zone.

A public hearing to discuss the 2026 Baranof Island mountain goat management strategy was held on July 30, 2026, in Sitka, Alaska. The 2026 strategy is similar to the 2025 strategy with distinct male and female harvest levels by zone. Female harvest is more restrictive than male harvest. As mountain goat harvest levels in zones are reached, they are closed.

The remainder of Baranof Island will remain open for goat hunting unless closed by special action. Future special actions may be issued to reopen zones if it is determined that subpopulations can sustain additional harvest.

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to: /S/ Gregg Dunn
Gregg Dunn
Acting District Ranger
Sitka Ranger District
September 2, 2026

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