



## 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

### UPPER BLUE LAKE 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

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Temporary Special Action No: 13-MG-06-22  
Issued at: Sitka Alaska, October 13, 2022

Effective Date: 11:59 p.m. Friday, October 14, 2022

Expiration Date: 11:59 p.m. Saturday, December 31, 2022 unless superseded by subsequent special action

#### EXPLANATION:

This Temporary Special Action closes the Upper Blue Lake 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 Nakwasing River drainages upstream of the Peak 3098 creek confluence, south of the north fork Nakwasing 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)*

Federal Subsistence Board by delegation to   /s/Eric Garner  
Eric Garner  
District Ranger  
Sitka Ranger District  
October 12, 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 in the Upper Blue Lake Zone. As of Tuesday October 11, three male goats have been harvested. 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; Earl Stewart, 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.