

PROPOSAL 95

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Change the bag limit, lengthen the season, and implement reporting requirements for goat in Unit 8 Remainder as follows:

We propose limiting the billy harvest to one per hunter to increase nanny harvest and also improve trophy quality. We also would lengthen the season to provide additional opportunity.

RG480: August 20 – **March 31** [March 20], two goats – **only one of which may be a billy.** Nanny with kids prohibited. **Reporting requirements: in person to Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) within five days of completion of hunt or submit a photo of head/horns to ADF&G within 30 days of completion of hunt.**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Area RG480 (southern half of Kodiak Island) has an increasing mountain goat population, which we are trying to stabilize or reduce. We have liberalized regulations in the past but need to do more. While we are getting increased participation and harvest, we need to harvest more nannies to accomplish this mission. There seems to be some reluctance to harvest nannies, or the inability to distinguish which nanny has kids (taking a nanny with kids is prohibited). An additional problem is the targeting and harvesting of billies, leading to a reduced number of mature billies.

What will happen if nothing is done: Goat population will continue to expand, endangering habitat and health of herd. Trophy billy quality will continue to decline.

Other solutions considered: (1) Allowing “any goat” after December 31 to ease the inability of distinguishing which nanny has kids. However, we currently don’t have good biological information to ascertain survivability of kids without their mother. (2) Having a nanny-only requirement after December 31. We feel this would lower participation and reduce opportunity as some people are reluctant to harvest nannies or would be unable to identify a legal animal. (3) Lengthening season to May 15. This would interfere with the spring brown bear season.

PROPOSED BY: Kodiak Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F18-029)
