

**PROPOSAL 59**

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

Change the RG231 to an archery only hunt for goat in Unit 6 for certified bowhunters as follows:

RG231 One goat by **bow and arrow only** by permit available in person in Cordova beginning Sept. 22 **by certified bowhunters.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** RG231 in Unit 6C routinely closes down early because of high success rates and has a high rate of nanny harvest. (This information was obtained from a local wildlife biologist.) In addition, there are limited opportunities for hunters who enjoy the challenge of archery hunting mountain goats. Switching RG231 to archery only would have multiple benefits.

First, it would create a safe environment for hunters who wish to pursue archery hunting for goats without having to worry about being shot over while stalking or having goats chased off by hunters using longer range tactics.

Second, the limited harvest rate of archery would reduce the overall take of goats providing for a longer season and more hunting opportunity, but less impact on population.

Third and most important, the time and attention required to successfully harvest a mountain goat with archery equipment will make it much less likely to kill a nanny. Often, it requires many hours, even days, of close proximity observation before getting close enough to shoot a goat with a bow and this time will be invaluable in studying gender characteristics to ensure harvest of only billies.

This represents another situation where using archery hunting as conservation tool is an excellent option.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul Forward

(EG-F22-146)

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