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PRESS RELEASE

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Two Kodiak Mountain Goat Registration Hunts Close

This year there will not be registration mountain goat hunts in the Crown Mountain (RG472) and East Terror hunt areas (RG473). In each of those areas, the harvest during the drawing hunts met the targets established by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. All other areas will open as scheduled on November 1, 2012, but hunters are encouraged to contact the Kodiak ADF&G office before they go hunting to check on the status of individual hunts.

Goat hunters on Kodiak have harvested 88 goats islandwide so far this season. The harvest rate is comparable to previous years and in many areas there will still be an opportunity for a late season registration hunts. To be eligible to participate in a late season hunt, hunters must pick up a permit in the village closest to the hunt area (hunts RG471, 474, 476, 478 and 479), or on-line for hunt RG480 (southwest Kodiak).

There are currently 8 permit mountain goat hunt areas that are managed by drawing and registration permits. Goat harvest quotas are established for each permit hunt area annually. Harvest quota percentages in individual permit areas range from 5% to 20%. If harvest quota objectives are not met during the drawing permit season, registration permits are available. In the southwestern part of Kodiak, where goat populations are expanding into new areas, liberal hunting regulations allow a 4 month registration hunt for both resident and non-resident hunters.

The mountain goat population on Kodiak originated from 11 females and 7 males, which were moved from the Kenai Peninsula to the Hidden Basin area during 1952 and 1953. In 1964, 26 goats were observed in the Crown Mountain area. The first hunting season was authorized in 1968, and permits have been issued each year since then with the number of permits available and open areas changing to reflect population trends and goat movements. Mountain goats currently occupy all available goat habitat on the island, and there are confirmed reports of goats as far as Halibut Bay and Akalura Lake. Based on data from comprehensive aerial surveys, we estimated that the goat population on Kodiak Island in 2012 was 2,500 goats.

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