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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **Goat Hunt Closes North of the Port of Valdez**

(Cordova)- Registration permit hunt RG248 for mountain goats in Unit 6D will close at 11:59 p.m. on October 2, by Emergency Order of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The hunt area includes the mainland drainages of Sheep Creek; north of Port Valdez, Robe Lake, and the Richardson Highway; and east of Shoup Glacier.

Aerial surveys found a minimum count of 115 goats in registration permit area RG248. The department set the maximum allowable state harvest at 5 goat units. Additional take beyond the harvest objective could harm the long-term stability of these populations. According to Prince William Sound Area Biologist Charlotte Westing, the harvest is currently at three billies, with each nanny counting as 2 goats towards the harvest objective. Hunters are currently in the field, and therefore it is likely that additional goats have been taken and not yet reported. This closure is necessary to prevent unsustainable harvest.

This closure affects only registration permit hunt RG248 in Unit 6D. All other mountain goat hunting regulations in the remainder of Game Management Unit 6 are not affected by this emergency order.

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