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## **PRESS RELEASE**

*For Immediate Release: December 1, 2014*

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### **Port Valdez/Lowe River Goat Hunt Closes**

(Cordova)- Registration permit hunt RG245 for mountain goats in Unit 6D will close at 11:59 p.m. on December 2 by Emergency Order of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. Hunt area RG245 includes that portion of Unit 6(D) west of Browns Creek, south of Lowe River and Port Valdez, and north of Jack Bay and the main channel of Jack River.

Aerial surveys found a minimum count of 123 goats in registration permit area RG245. The department set the maximum allowable state harvest at 7 goat units. Additional take beyond the harvest objective could harm the long-term stability of the mountain goat population. According to Cordova Area Biologist Charlotte Westing, the harvest is currently at 5 billies and 1 nanny. 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 RG245 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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