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PRESS RELEASE

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Four Kodiak Mountain Goat Registration Hunts to Open November 1; Three Others Will Remain Closed

(Kodiak) – Three popular Kodiak Island registration mountain goat hunts will not open this year because drawing hunt harvests earlier this fall have met quotas. Four other goat hunts are scheduled to open November 1.

Registration hunts that will not open include RG471 (Wild Creek), RG472 (Crown Mountain), and RG473 (Hidden Basin - East Terror Lake). Mild, relatively dry weather during the drawing hunt seasons created optimal hunting conditions resulting in high hunter success. No permits were issued for these hunts.

Registration hunts scheduled to open include RG474 (Port Lions), RG476 (Old Harbor), and archery-only hunts RG478 and RG479. To participate in RG474, hunters must first pick up a permit at the tribal offices in Port Lions. For RG476, hunters must first pick up a permit in the tribal offices in Old Harbor. Registration hunts RG478 (South Road System) and RG479 (North Road System) are archery only and permits are available at department offices in Palmer, Anchorage, Homer, Soldotna or Kodiak; or online at <http://hunt.alaska.gov>. Only certified archery hunters may obtain a permit for RG478 or RG479. Registration hunt RG480 (southwest Kodiak) opened August 20 and will remain open until March 20, unless closed by emergency order.

Registration mountain goat hunts are controlled by harvest quota and hunters are encouraged to contact the Kodiak office at 907-486-1880 prior to hunting to check individual hunt status.

Eight Kodiak Island mountain goat hunt areas are managed by drawing and/or registration permits. Goat harvest quotas are established annually for each hunt area. Harvest quotas in individual permit areas range from 5 percent to 20 percent. If harvest quota objectives are not met during the drawing permit season, registration permits are issued. In the southwestern part of Kodiak (RG480), where goat populations are expanding, liberal hunting regulations allow a seven-month registration hunt with a two-goat bag limit for resident and nonresident hunters. Hunters intending to take two goats must get two permits and report on both individually.

Mountain goats on Kodiak originated from 11 females and seven males moved from the Kenai Peninsula to the Hidden Basin area in 1952 and 1953. The first hunting season was authorized in 1968, and permits have been issued each year since with permit numbers and open areas changing to reflect population trends and goat movements. Mountain goats currently occupy nearly all available goat habitats on the island, and goats have been confirmed as far southwest as Halibut Bay and Akalura Lake. Based on data from comprehensive aerial surveys, Kodiak Island's goat population is estimated at approximately 3,000.

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