

ALASKA BOARD OF GAME
Skilak Loop Small Game Hunting;
Dall Sheep Permit Allocations; and
Guide Client Agreements for Certain Drawing Hunts
Coast International Inn, Anchorage Alaska
October 4, 2007

DESIGNATED REPORTERS: Sherry Wright

This summary of actions is for information purposes only and is not intended to detail, reflect or fully interpret the reasons for the Board's actions.

SKILAK LOOP SMALL GAME HUNTING REGULATIONS ACTION: Carried

DESCRIPTION: Make emergency regulations permanent concerning small game hunting for youth in Unit 15, the Skilak Loop Wildlife Management Area.

DISCUSSION: In April 2007, the Board of Game adopted emergency regulations which made modifications to the small game hunting season dates and requirements for youth hunters in the Skilak Loop Special Management Area, effective July 1 – October 28, 2007. The board expressed their support for the changes to the regulations because it will benefit local youth hunters by providing additional hunting opportunity. The board was pleased that both the state and federal agencies worked together to provide hunting opportunities for the youth in this area. The board concurred with the department that the typographical error for the eastern most boundary should be corrected to read milepost 58 rather than 76.3.

PROPOSAL NO. 1

ACTION Carried

DESCRIPTION: This proposal aligns the regulations concerning guide client agreement requirements for certain nonresident drawing permits. It also provides the Dall sheep permit allocation for residents and nonresidents in Units 13D & 14A/

AMENDMENT: Permit allocation for Unit 13D - maximum of 20% nonresidents, minimum of 80% residents. Permit allocation for Unit 14A – maximum of 10% nonresidents, minimum of 90% residents.

DISCUSSION:

Dall sheep permit allocation: The board expressed concern over the sheep population in Units 13D and 14A. Board members commented that resident hunters have testified previously that they have not hunted at times due to a concern of population declines. Board members discussed the progress at the Spring 2007 regional board meeting at which the board held an evening session involving locals and guides who hunt sheep in these units. It was noted that there may be anticipation by those who were present at the Spring 2007 meeting that the board would allocate permits based on the Nonresident Drawing Permit Allocation Policy, 2007-173-BOG. This policy states that allocations will be determined on a case by case basis and will be based upon the historical data for nonresident and resident permit allocation over the past ten years. The board considered displacement of hunters and guides that may occur as a result of this action and requested the department to place a limit on party hunts. The board acknowledged 2nd degree of kindred hunters to be included with the guided nonresident allocation. The board deliberated over the fairness for all parties involved including the economic impact to guides when discussing the various percentages of permit allocations.

Guide Client Agreements: The department explained the current procedures for certain drawing permit hunts which include: a signed guide client agreement is required before or at the time of application; nonresidents must provide the name of a guide or a resident relative on the application, and the contracting guide shall be registered in the area prior to drawing. The board commented that the past intent for requiring guides to utilize a guide use area long before the next year's hunting season was to make the guides commit to hunting in an area over the long term so that the guides would not change hunting areas to unfamiliar areas as a result of a mass application process. The board supported the requirement for a signed guide client agreement at the time of the application which means the guide will have to be registered the year prior to the hunt and the year of the hunt.