

Regional & Multiple Units

PROPOSAL 184 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Begin resident sheep seasons seven days earlier than nonresident seasons in the Southcentral Region as follows:

Sheep hunting dates for all Units in the Southcentral Region:

Residents: August 3-September 20

Nonresidents: August 10-September 20

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal addresses overcrowding, lack of opportunity, a stressed legal ram population, and a diminished hunting experience for Alaska residents. All of these issues can be addressed by reducing the number of hunters in the field at the same time.

Alaska residents have an approximate success rate of 23%. Nonresidents harvest over 40% of the sheep taken in Alaska, which is an allocation that no other state would tolerate. Most states allocate a maximum of 10% of the tags to nonresidents, which is less than 10% of the harvested resource.

If sheep seasons started seven days earlier for residents, much of the overcrowding in the field would be eliminated. Air traffic would be spread out over a longer period and many of the residents would be returning from their hunt when the nonresidents were heading out. This will not reduce stress on the sheep population but it will create opportunity for residents and give them a better hunting experience. The Board of Game needs to limit nonresident participation but this will help in the Southcentral Region until we have a statewide meeting in 2016.

The only other solution considered would be to limit nonresident sheep season to 14 days (August 10-August 24) and resident sheep season would be August 10-September 20.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Lamal (EG-C14-261)

PROPOSAL 185 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Begin resident sheep seasons seven days earlier than nonresident seasons in Units 7, 14, and 15 as follows:

Resident hunting season for Dall sheep shall be August 3 to September 20. Nonresident hunting season shall be from August 10 to September 20. Drawing permit areas will start seven days earlier for Alaska residents and if there is a split season, the second half will be shortened by seven days for nonresidents such that residents can start the second half seven days prior to nonresidents.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board needs to address the lack of full curl legal rams available to Alaska residents. While sheep populations have been stable to slightly declining, the availability of legal rams, much less trophy rams, has been significantly reduced and is in serious decline. Success rates for resident sheep hunters will never be on par with nonresidents if not allowed an earlier jump from the efficiency of their guides. If this problem is not addressed, Alaskan resident hunters will continue to suffer from the mismanagement of this species by the Board of Game. Alaskan youth will never have the opportunity afforded to their parents and grandparents to successfully hunt healthy populations of Dall sheep with ample populations of large rams. Alaska wildlife belongs to all Alaskans and these resources should be managed as such.

An earlier start for residents would have several benefits: Resident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt and avoid conflicts with guides and their clients. Nonresident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt by avoiding conflicts with resident hunters. Transport services associated with sheep hunting will improve as this will lessen the bottleneck on transporters seen at the beginning of each season, especially during poor weather. This may also increase the safety of hunters and transporters by spreading out the season and users more. Current Alaska residents and future Alaskans may be more interested in hunting Dall sheep, its management, and the future of Dall sheep hunting if they had greater opportunity to locate and harvest a legal ram, much less, quality rams.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle (EG-C14-292)

PROPOSAL 186 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Limit nonresident sheep hunting in the Southcentral Region with shorter seasons, drawing permits, or other methods.

Nonresident hunting should be reduced with either shorter season, draw permit only, or some other method which limits their numbers.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Resident hunters do not have adequate access to sheep hunting opportunities. With the increased pressure from guides and nonresident hunters, chances for a successful hunt for a resident are slim to none. Nonresident hunting should be reduced with either shorter seasons, draw permit only, or some other method which limits their numbers. The guide industry shouldn't suffer, because economic forces will prevail and they will charge more per hunt to ensure an enjoyable Alaskan quality experience.

PROPOSED BY: Keenan Zerkel

(EG-C14-307)

PROPOSAL 187 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Allow a maximum of 10% of nonresident sheep hunt participation for the Southcentral Region as follows:

A maximum of 10% (10% is not guaranteed) nonresident participation in all sheep hunts for all of the Southcentral Region. This includes guided general and permit hunts and next of kin hunts.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal addresses overcrowding, lack of opportunity, a stressed legal ram population, and a diminished hunting experience for Alaska residents. All of these issues can be addressed by reducing the number of hunters in the field and that must start by reducing nonresident participation.

Alaska residents have an approximate success rate of 23%. Nonresidents harvest over 40% of the sheep taken in Alaska, which is an allocation that no other state would tolerate. Most states allocate a maximum of 10% of the tags to nonresidents, which is less than 10% of the harvested resource.

Much of the sheep hunting in the Southcentral Region is regulated by permit hunts and nonresident participation should be reduced to a maximum of 10% (10% is not guaranteed whether guided or next of kin). The 10% number for nonresidents permits should be calculated from the entire the Southcentral Region and not micro managed with each subunit. General hunts should have a maximum of 10% nonresident participation, which would be taken from a five year average of nonresident license applications.

The only other solution considered should be the elimination of nonresidents sheep tags until the Board of Game addresses this issue on a statewide basis and creates a better experience for Alaskans.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Lamal

(EG-C14-259)

PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Limit sheep harvest by nonresidents to 10% of total harvest in Units 7, 14, and 15 as follows:

Nonresident harvest of legal sheep, whether by draw or general harvest tag, will only be 10% of the total harvest. (Empirical data exists to determine the limitation of both draw hunts and general harvest hunts to determine the actual number of tags that should be allowed to ensure that total harvest by nonresidents does not exceed 10%.)

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The board needs to address the lack of full curl legal rams available to Alaska residents and the disparity of success between resident and nonresident hunters. While sheep populations have been stable to slightly declining, the availability of legal rams, much less trophy rams, has been significantly reduced and is in serious decline. 40% of legal rams harvested are by nonresidents. While residents may harvest the other 60%, less than one in four resident hunters are actually successful. Understand that fact--over 75% of resident hunters are unsuccessful every year. Nonresident hunters are significantly more successful than resident hunters because of their guides who can spend tens of thousands of dollars locating rams in the offseason by fixed wing aircraft. Most residents can't afford a plane to locate rams, much less the fuel. The current structure has sheep hunting--with success--becoming a rich man's sport. That's not right and by not limiting nonresident tags (draw and general), the board has created a very sad state of affairs with our sheep population, and especially our population of legal rams.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle (EG-C14-295)

PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Limit allocation of nonresident sheep permits to 10% in the Southcentral Region Units as follows:

Limit nonresident permit sheep hunts to 10%. Once drawn, one cannot apply again for that specific draw permit (both residents and nonresidents).

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? My proposal addresses the lack of preference and opportunity given to residents for sheep hunting draw permits. Residents on average are only 20-25% successful in harvesting a legal ram whereas nonresidents, who harvest > 40% of all the rams annually in the state, are much more successful. A nonresident has an equal chance of being drawn for a permit sheep hunt as does a resident in our state. In most every western state, nonresidents are limited to 5-15% of permits awarded for big game hunting opportunities. Also, many big game permits out of state are "once in a lifetime" hunts, not to be applied for again by either resident or nonresident. This allows for greater opportunity in subsequent years for those not initially drawn.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Ferucci (EG-C14-254)

Note: The board does not have authority to place restrictions on the transportation of hunters.

PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits. Allocate 10% sheep harvest for nonresidents in Southcentral Region Units as follows:

Allow nonresidents only 10% maximum of harvest. This should include second degree of kindred.

Also restrict the number of drop off hunts that air charters can perform. Stacking hunters is not good for anybody.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? This proposal is in regards to overcrowding. Residents only harvest about 23% of the total harvest per year, while nonresidents harvest 40% of the sheep taken in Alaska. This is total that is totally out of control. The board needs to follow the Alaska constitution. It is clearly stated that the Alaskan residents come first.

PROPOSED BY: Chris Gossen (EG-C14-270)

PROPOSAL 191 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful taking of game; exceptions. Remove the restriction against using felt sole waders while hunting in Southcentral Region Units as follows:

People hunting in Alaska can legally wear whatever they want while pursuing game, including their choice of foot wear and/or any other personal protective equipment that they deem will make their hunt more safe.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game's (board) ban on wearing felt soles while hunting, making wading and rafting while hunting unsafe and dangerous for people. Anyone who has spent much time in the field—or worse, had unexpected “swims”—knows how dangerous our cold waters are and how quickly one could lose their life. Even a quick dunk can be unforgiving and have dire consequences. The difference between wearing felt and wearing rubber or caulked boots is like night and day. Unfortunately, there are no alternatives, regardless of what you are told. If you personally are unaware of this fact, then you have little experience wading rivers or streams and need to better educate yourself on the issue. Safety wise, it is the same as driving without a seat belt, or running a chainsaw without a pair of chaps. Sure you may get by without them, but do you want to get into an accident without your seat belt on? In essence, that's what the board's (and the Board of Fisheries) ban does. The ban states loud and clear that our safety, our lives and that of our children and loved ones, is unimportant.

If you do not lift this ban, people will die, drown and perish while hunting, due to our cold water temperatures. It's as simple as that. While the attempt to thwart the spread of invasive plants and animals is noteworthy, the board's lack of adequate analysis of the scientific data on this subject is both troubling and reckless. Can felt soles transport invasive plants and animals? Unfortunately, yes they can. But please look at the research—which is extremely limited at best. This small amount of research, much which has not been peer reviewed, has indicated that felt soles can spread such invasive species as Didymo (rock snot), possibly whirling disease, and one

New Zealand mudsnail was proven to be transported by a felt boot. One! Research has also proven that these invasive species can be carried and transported to other waters on shoelaces, socks, inside the wading boots themselves, on the wading material itself and even on rubber wading boots. Furthermore, research has also proven invasive species can be transported from one water body to another by boat trailers and through bilge water of boats and float planes traveling to and from different water bodies. Even Darwin wrote many years ago, about migrating waterfowl transporting plants and animals from one water body to another, both internally and externally. Why not ban all of these vectors then?

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle (EG-C14-298)

PROPOSAL 192 – 5 AAC 92.010. Harvest tickets and reports. Require harvest reporting of migratory birds by species in Southcentral Region Units as follows:

For more accurate data, create a harvest ticket with opportunity of reporting harvest by species for migratory birds to gain information presently limited to ADF&G.

Use the system already in place for other species like deer, moose etc.

If reported electronically:

- Once filed online a certified receipt for your report will be returned by email. This receipt is proof that report has been filed.
- Harvest tickets and registration permits are good for a regulatory year, not a calendar year. For example, a harvest ticket for 2013 would be valid from July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014.
- If ADF&G does not receive a hunt report, hunters will not be eligible for future hunts. Online reporting allows hunters to determine which reports have filed and which you have not.

If reported by mail:

Hunt reports will come with harvest tickets attached to them. The report portion need not be carried in the field but must be completed and returned within 15 days of the close of the season even if you did not hunt or did not take an animal. Reports of personal harvest location are confidential.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015 and the Southcentral meeting scheduled for March 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Electronic online or mail in harvest tickets and reporting required for migratory birds by species.

PROPOSED BY: Sea Ducks Unlimited (EG-C14-235)

PROPOSAL 193 - 5 AAC 92.003. Hunter education and orientation requirements. Require certification for big game hunters using crossbows in the Southcentral Region as follows:

All hunters pursuing big game with a crossbow in the Southcentral Region must have passed a certification course presented by ADF&G and carry their certification card in the field. This regulation to be effective starting July 2016.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game passed a regulation stating that all hunters hunting with bow and arrow for big game must pass the IBEP certification and carry their certification card while hunting starting in July 2016. The board did not include hunters who hunt with a crossbow in this regulation. There are safety issues involved with use of a crossbow which are unique to crossbows and do not apply to regular archery equipment or firearms. A crossbow is a different implement than bow and arrow but kills in the same fashion with sharp cutting of vital structures rather than shock as with a firearm. Firearms hunters who pick up a crossbow need to learn the limitations of the weapon, acceptable shot angles and target anatomy. In addition they need to learn appropriate follow-up and recovery techniques which may differ significantly from their experience with firearms. Crossbow hunters who wound animals may leave a visible projectile in the animal which can reflect poorly on not only crossbow hunters but also on bowhunters and impact on all hunters. I believe that ALL hunters who use a crossbow for hunting big game in Alaska should be required to pass a crossbow certification course developed and presented by ADF&G and should be required to carry their certification card while hunting big game with crossbow. The course should include a field day in which the student demonstrates knowledge of safe use of the crossbow and a minimum level of shooting proficiency.

Nothing in this should be interpreted to imply that crossbows are the same as archery equipment. the course must be separate from the IBEP certification and taught by instructors knowledgeable in use of crossbows and certified to teach the course. Also, nothing in this proposal should imply that crossbows are acceptable for use in special archery only areas or hunts.

This proposal is to cover all regions open for proposals for consideration by the Board of Game during their 2015 meetings. It is my intention to make the same proposal next year to apply to the Interior and Arctic/Western Region. This proposal is to be effective starting in July 2016 which would align it statewide with the recently passed regulation for bowhunters and would also give ADF&G time to implement the education programs.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost (EG-C14-293)

PROPOSAL 194 - 5 AAC 92.080. Unlawful taking of game; exceptions. Prohibit the use of hunting dogs for taking upland game birds after October 31, for the Southcentral Region as follows:

Add a new line to 5 AAC 92.080

The following methods of taking game are prohibited:

(X). Use of a hunting dog after October 31 for the taking of upland game birds in the Southcentral Region.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Hunting dogs being caught in lawful traps, (during trapping season) while they are being used for hunting upland game birds.

PROPOSED BY: Al Barrette

(EG-C14-269)

PROPOSAL 195 - 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Remove the requirement to clean up contaminated soil from bear bait stations in the Southcentral Region Units as follows:

Eliminate the requirement to "remove all contaminated soil" from a bear bait site at the conclusion of the baiting season.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At bear bait stations the requirement to remove all soil contaminated by the baiting at the end of the season is an excessive nuisance and is perceived by hunters to be a form of harassment by regulators who may be personally opposed to baiting bear in spite of the fact that bear baiting is a legal and accepted means of hunting bear and is often the only practical means of hunting bear in certain areas. This combined with the requirement to provide accurate GPS locations before a permit is obtained sends a message to hunters that they are potentially subject to prosecution if an enforcement officer comes into the bait site with a trowel and samples some dirt which may have an increased sugar or fat content by lab analysis. From a practical perspective it is virtually impossible to remove all contaminated soil. Anything that is used for bait is biodegradable and will rapidly be removed by organisms from bacteria to bears. Anything not removed will go to fertilize the soil. There is no guidance with what should be done with the "contaminated soil". Alternatives would be to spread it out, carry it any given distance and throw it out, transport it back to town, and take it to a public dump.

Nothing in this discussion should be interpreted as wanting to change the regulation requiring removal of all trash, litter, bait barrels and other artificial structures at the end of the baiting season.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost

(EG-C14-299)

PROPOSAL 196 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits. Add five days to all resident hunting seasons and allocate 75% of the drawing permits to residents for the Southcentral Region as follows:

For the benefit of all Alaska residents change current regulations in all Southcentral units so the residents of the State of Alaska receive preference in regard to all hunting opportunities.

For all harvest ticket hunts: Allow state residents to start the hunting seasons five days early or allow state residents to hunt for five additional days after the season has closed for nonresident hunters.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

For drawing hunts: change allocation systems to ensure Alaskan residents have been allocated to receive 75% of any drawing hunt opportunity. If state residents do not use that percentage of the pool, then the unallocated portion may be used by nonresident hunters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? For the benefit of all Alaskan residents change current regulations in all Units so the residents of the State of Alaska receive preference in regards to all hunting opportunities.

I am hopeful that the board will address the inequalities in resident hunter preference. For many years a significant portion of the large game species has been taken by nonresidents. This is due to several factors, as managers of a state resource, the board should be morally and ethically obligated to ensure that resident hunting opportunities and resident hunting preference are a priority.

PROPOSED BY: Kevin Secor

(EG-C14-227)

PROPOSAL 197 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits. Allocate 90% of big game drawing permits to residents for Southcentral Region Units as follows:

I'd like to see the Board of Game adopt a new allocation schedule for all big game draw permits in the Southcentral Region: 90% to residents and the remainder plus any undersubscribed to nonresidents.

(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Southeast meeting scheduled for January 2015 and the Central/Southwest meeting scheduled for February 2015.)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? At issue is allocation of big game draw permits. Currently a nonresident hunter has equal chance in the lottery as resident

meat hunters. Nonresidents, albeit supporting the guide industry, have historically much better success rates no doubt due to the work of their guides. The end result is that more of the real harvest goes to nonresidents, many of whom don't even want the meat; rather than Alaskans who will respect the harvested animal all year long every tasty bite of the way. This is in direct contradiction to our mandate by Alaska's Constitution Article 8 section 3 stating that meat belongs to the residents. Most other states currently allocate only 10% of their draw permits to nonresidents, and guiding is still big business there. A real tragedy to the continuation of hunting tradition will befall us as our kids potentially will lose future opportunities to hunt this great land.

Considered was action to establish a point/preference system like most states to more directly and effectively tackle the issue, but this appears to be a legislative issue and would also take many years to implement. Also considered was a shorter season for nonresidents, but to be fair especially to mountain hunters, an equal number of weather windows should be provided for both. This would also promote mad-dash boating and bush flying, a dangerous and disrespectful practice. If nothing is done about this issue, meat will continue to be mis-allocated, Alaskan youth may see future opportunities lost, and game resources will decline.

Thank you for considering this 90/10 draw permit allocation, Alaskans appreciate it.

PROPOSED BY: Douglas Malone

(EG-C14-240)
