

PROPOSAL 121 – 5 AAC 85.065(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.
Lengthen the hunting season for ptarmigan in Unit 13B as follows:

Return the ptarmigan season length in Subunit 13B to the standard August 10 – March 31, aligning the subunit with surrounding units.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The length of the ptarmigan season in Subunit 13B was reduced a number of years ago in an attempt to achieve higher rock ptarmigan numbers at calling stations located along the eastern Denali Highway. The late winter season was eliminated (December 1 – March 31), in hopes of reducing additive mortality. The change has not been successful in bringing rock ptarmigan numbers back up to previous highs. Meanwhile, with the natural swing in upland bird numbers, willow ptarmigan are now abundant in the subunit and surrounding areas. A significant amount of winter and spring upland bird hunting could be provided if the season was returned to the standard length August 10 – March 31. Given the popularity and accessibility of this area for ptarmigan hunting, the change would also take pressure off surrounding subunits.

PROPOSED BY: Rebecca Schwanke

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