

**PROPOSAL 87**

**5 AAC 85.065(a)(3). Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.**

Close the ptarmigan season in Unit 15C as follows:

A complete cessation of hunting of ptarmigan for at least five years and allow them to come back, please.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Ptarmigan. Where are they? When we moved to our place on East Skyline in 1980, it was common to see ptarmigan over winter when they would come down to feed on willow tips. When the snows got deep on Lookout, they would come to our area to feed. I have not seen a ptarmigan here in over 20 years. Likewise, when my family goes into the Caribou Hills area, they see no ptarmigan, and they used to see so many. When I visited with some of the early homesteaders, they told me when they came up here to hunt in the fall, the sky would turn white with ptarmigan that came to feed on the plentiful blueberries. The berries are still there, but no ptarmigan has fed on them in many years. Instead, the now more numerous black bear harvest them.

**PROPOSED BY:** Mildred Martin

(EG-F18-018)

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