

**PROPOSAL 5**

**5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.**

Establish three archery registration hunts for Dall sheep in Units 9, 11, 13, 14, and 16 where there are general season hunts as follows:

In Units 9, 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16 where there is a general season (harvest ticket) sheep hunt, there would be established three registration hunts for conventional bow and arrow (bowhunter certification required). The dates for each registration hunt would be as follows: August 1 - August 9; September 21 - September 30 and October 1 - October 10. A legal sheep would be a full curl ram (or eight or greater years old or double broomed). A hunter could register for and hunt all three hunts but would have to register for each one separately after returning from the field from each hunt. Registration could be online or in person. The later hunts could be closed by Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) by emergency order.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The function of the Board of Game should be to NOT ONLY issue restrictions to hunting but should also be to increase hunting opportunities where reasonable and in a fashion that would be of no biologic impact to the species being hunted. Many states in the Lower 48 have established long archery seasons both before and after the regular firearms seasons. As a result archery hunting has been growing in numbers, while the overall number of hunters in most states has been declining. This has potentially caused serious problems with Pittman-Robertson funding of some states game management and conservation programs. The issue is a request for the Board of Game to identify areas and species where hunting opportunities can be increased with minimal impact on the species being hunted.

A good example would be archery (conventional bow and arrow) sheep seasons both before and after the usual firearms season. Bowhunters would appreciate the chance to hunt sheep at a time when there was no competition from firearms hunters. This proposal would be for a conventional bow and arrow sheep season. It would be a registration hunt so that ADF&G could accurately keep track of participation and success rates. Legal sheep would be Mature Rams Only as defined by full curl, eight years old or older or double broomed, which is the same as for the firearms hunts. ADF&G has already stated that with those restrictions there should be no harm to the sheep population. Note that these hunts would be available to both residents and nonresidents (who would still require a guide). This would give guides an opportunity to sell additional hunts if they were willing to take bowhunters.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Frost

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