

PROPOSAL 98

5 AAC 84.270. Furbearer trapping.

Extend the beaver trapping season in Unit 16 as follows:

Change beaver trapping season in Unit 16 to August 10 - May 31.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Change trapping season in Unit 16B to start August 10. The beaver in Unit 16B have increased in population to a nuisance level in many areas. The flooding has caused major issue to hunters access to much of the good moose hunting as well as flooded historic trails. The Department of Fish and Game is willing to issue permits to harvest out of season, but this is not as effective. If the hunting season was open in August when resident and nonresident hunters are in the field we could sell non-resident trapping licenses to many hunters and they could thin out the beaver population a bit and at the same time contribute to revenue to the state. With the low price of furs for so many years, beaver are not worth the effort for most trappers to dig through several feet of snow and then ice to set traps for a furbearer that brings in \$30 after lots of skinning and fleshing. Clients and resident hunters would be more likely to harvest the beaver when it is convenient and could keep the hides and donate the meat to folks with dog teams that would love to have it. With nonresident trapping/hunting licenses selling for \$405 the state would again benefit the well needed income and the match from Pittman Robinson funds.

I see no downside to this as it is not going to turn into a commercial harvest, but will definitely help get the beaver population back in check. At the least open it August 25 one month earlier and give it a shot.

PROPOSED BY: Steven Perrins

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