

**PROPOSAL 227**

**5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.**

Reduce the bag limit for grouse in Unit 14A and eliminate the ruffed grouse differentiation as follows:

**Bag Limits - Unit 14A**

- Ptarmigan: 10 per day, 20 in possession
- Grouse: **5 per day and 10 in possession** [15 PER DAY AND 30 IN POSSESSION OF WHICH NOT MORE THAN 2 PER DAY AND 4 IN POSSESSION MAY BE RUFFED GROUSE.]

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Amend the Unit 14A daily grouse limit to five per day with no differentiation for species. Ruffed Grouse were introduced to this unit during the 1980s and are now well established and widely distributed. The current different limit for different grouse species is now unnecessary on a biological basis and increases the chance of hunters making an honest mistake. Please simplify this regulation.

A large portion of Unit 14A is bisected by roads and trails with easy access, and high amounts of human use. Reducing the daily bag limit from 15 to five grouse may better maintain harvestable grouse numbers throughout the season, and may also spread the harvest out amongst the large number of hunters who use this popular hunting area. A limit of five grouse per day in this heavily hunted Unit 14A would follow the same logic as the hare limit in this area, and be set at the same five per day. Unit 14C has a similar five per day ten in possession grouse limit -- but differentiates between species.

**PROPOSED BY:** Andrew Couch

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