

PROPOSAL 87

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

Change the bag limit for the Dall sheep permit hunts in Unit 14A and convert the early season to archery only permit hunts as follows:

Unit 14A: DS170 - DS180 - DS190 - DS270 - DS280 - DS290 - (Resident and Nonresident)
Allocate the first half of the Dall sheep draw permits to archers only for "any rams".

DS175 - DS185 - DS195 - DS275 - DS285 (Resident & Nonresident)
Allocate the second half of the draw permits to any weapon and "full-curl rams" only.

Address the discrepancy of the "any ram" regulation and management of sheep in Unit 14A. Address dates between the first portion of the season and or the second portion of the season for weapon restrictions. Allow more rams to reach maturity with the archery regulations, as there is ADF&G data proving the low harvest success of archers. Approximately 130 rams have been harvested with archery equipment in the state of Alaska over the past 10 years (approx. 1%), those numbers include archery only draws and general harvest hunts. The low success rate of archers would not have a significant impact on this "any ram" hunt. Changing the any weapon portion of this proposed draw to full-curl only will allow more rams to reach maturity and a larger population of Dall sheep. Dates of the weapons restrictions is less important than allowing the opportunity to harvest rams for both "any ram" hunters and "full-curl" hunters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Dall sheep permits available in Unit 14A for less than full curl rams. Addressing the discrepancy in sheep population, and trophy rams versus hunt opportunity of Dall sheep in Unit 14A.

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