

Report to legislature for AS 16.05.050(b)

In addition to producing the summary of hunting regulations which are a full listing of allocations between resident and nonresident opportunity available to the public each regulatory year, the commissioner shall annually submit a report to the legislature regarding changes the Board of Game (board) made to the allocation of big game hunting opportunities to residents and nonresidents in the preceding calendar year.

At the statewide regulations Board of Game meeting held in Fairbanks during March 18-26, 2016, the board adjusted three allocations to residents and nonresidents as follows:

- 1) Changed the nonresident registration goat hunt in Unit 14C, Lake George, to a drawing hunt.

The board changed the existing nonresident registration hunt to a drawing hunt. The nonresident hunt was formerly a registration hunt which closed each year by emergency order on very short notice. As a result many nonresidents were unable to utilize their permits and were under the false assumption that obtaining a permit would provide them with an opportunity to hunt. Changing the hunt structure to a drawing hunt allowed the department to issue a limited number of permits based on the quota allotted to nonresidents, providing nonresidents with more reliable hunting opportunity. There is no specified allocation between guided nonresidents and nonresidents accompanied by resident relatives within second degree of kindred, and resident hunting opportunity is provided for by registration permit..

- 2) Established a one sheep every four regulatory years bag limit for all nonresidents.

The board adopted a statewide bag limit for nonresident sheep hunters, regardless of the type of hunt nonresidents are participating in. The only hunts not impacted by this regulation were those in the Tok Management Area, which already had a one sheep every four regulatory year bag limit for both residents and nonresidents. The new regulation did not change the allocation between guided nonresidents and nonresidents accompanied by resident relatives, which also occurs only in the Tok Management Area. Resident bag limits range from three sheep per year to one full-curl ram or larger every four regulatory years.

- 3) Created a joint bag limit for all nonresidents hunting guide required species that are accompanied by resident relatives within the second degree of kindred.

The bag limit of the nonresident hunter counts toward the bag limit of both the nonresident and the accompanying resident relative. This change does not apply to guided nonresidents. The change was adopted with a delayed implementation date of July 1, 2018. The board revisited this issue in Bethel in January 2017 and upheld the joint bag limit. The issue will be in front of the board again in Fairbanks in February 2017.

There is no other information or data relevant to the allocation of big game hunting opportunities for the preceding calendar year.

This report was produced by the Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, and approved by the Board of Game at the January 2017 Board of Game meeting in Bethel, Alaska.