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ALASKA

PROFESSIONAL HUNTERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

P.O. Box 240971 ~ Anchorage, AK 99524

Phone: (907) 929-0619

Email: office@alaskaprohunter.org ~ www.alaskaprohunter.org

Re: April 14, 2020 SPECIAL BOARD OF GAME MEETING

Dear Chair Spraker:

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) thanks you, the Board and the Department of Fish and Game for convening a special meeting to consider actions to open subsequent bear seasons and provide opportunity for hunters who have drawn bear permits in 2019 to utilize their tags at a latter date. APHA represents Alaskan hunting guides and their small businesses, many of whom have been severely hurt by the need to close spring non-resident bear seasons in 2019. We are hopeful that health and public safety mitigation measures that have been taken to protect rural communities are effective. Please consider board generated proposals to address our perspective as follows:

The Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) held three emergency teleconferences to consider season options or alternatives anticipating closure of *non-resident* spring brown bear seasons in GMUs 4, 8 or 9. APHA's following recommendations represent a consensus of guides on each call for each of the GMUs. Each alternative was developed in response to the question: "do you have an alternative season proposal that will not create conservation concerns if non-residents are not allowed to participate in spring bear hunts in 2020?" APHA supports the following alternatives because they will result in capturing what otherwise would be forgone economic opportunity while not placing any additional conservation burdens on the bear resource.

GMU 8- Kodiak Island:

Re-issue all 2020 Unit 8 *non-resident* permit winners to Spring 2021. In addition, it is requested ADF&G staff work closely with affected Big Game Guides to recapture some or all lost opportunity from the closed Spring 2020 season incrementally over the next three years by increasing permits in subsequent seasons where appropriate.

This would essentially move all 2020 permit holders to the 2021 Spring Bear Drawing Cycle and then offer a few additional tags for that same cycle. The Spring Bear 2022 and 2023 cycles would see the normal amount of tags, plus a few additional tags. It is recognized that after Spring 2023, that permits would return to pre-2020 numbers. It is also recognized that not all areas of Unit 8 will be able to replace opportunity lost under the scenario where the 2020 season is closed.

GMU 9- Alaska Peninsula Units with Alternating Spring and Fall Bear Seasons

Move the spring 2020 season for non-residents to spring 2021.

This would result in the same harvest patterns and opportunity by merely delaying 2020 opportunity to 2021.

GMU 4- Admiralty, Baranof and Chichagof Island Brown Bear Hunts



Guides in GMU 4 were unable to develop a workable, conservation neutral solution to recapturing opportunity if the non-resident 2020 bear season is cancelled. We ask the board to keep options open for staff in Region I and the Forest Service to work within the brown bear management plan to maintain harvest at the 3 year rolling average.

Discussion- Alternatives

Wildlife Conservation:

Brown bears in Unit 8 and Unit 4 are managed to meet harvest objectives developed in partnership with stakeholders and the division of wildlife. Neither of these plans contemplate **zero harvest** on any given year. It is important that the board consider alternatives that will allow rolling harvest averages to be maintained per management objectives.

Recommendations for both GMUs 8 & 9 were developed with the sideboards of “conservation neutrality.” Conservation concerns are most effectively addressed by moving spring opportunities to subsequent springs and not adding lost hunts to the fall. This concept was most easily applied in GMU 9 where the bear hunts occur on alternating springs. There was discussion about rolling hunts from spring 2020 to fall of 2020 but guides expressed concerns about elevated harvest rates of sows during the fall hunts. Kodiak guides similarly considered rolling hunts from the spring of 2020 to fall of 2020. Guides were firm that the path forward is to honor historic splits between spring and fall opportunities to promote harvest of male bears and that any recommendations needed to be within those sideboards.

Economic Necessity:

We cannot emphasize enough the economic necessity of working to adjust seasons to re-capture lost economic activity from hunting during the spring 2020 seasons. Hunting guides own and operate small businesses some of whom rely wholly on bear hunts for business viability. Hunting guide businesses are Alaskan owned (89%) with a high rate of rural residency for both business owners and assistant guides. Fully half of our economic benefits are captured in rural areas, the same areas that are at the greatest risk from COVID-19. Standard business practice for hunting guides is to take 50% of the hunt price as a “deposit” when a trip is booked. Our members are currently holding a significant amount of client deposits or full hunt payments that may become a liability if seasons are not closed and then not moved to alternative dates. The cascading effect of guide liability for un-prosecuted hunts combined revenue loss and no-recapture of opportunity would be catastrophic.

Setting aside businesses owner concerns, assistant guides in Alaska are seasonal workers who must be professionally licensed. Alaskan assistant guides are a highly skilled but limited workforce many are rural residents. The nature of employment in a hunting guide camp is more analogous to the relationship between commercial fishing boat captains and deckhands. Most assistant guides will not be eligible for unemployment insurance and most guides business owners pay wages from final payment of the trips. The guide community is looking at options on how to pull together and address the loss of the 2020 spring bear season but without viable options to defer opportunity we fear sever and crippling impacts to our workforce.

Not all industries or small businesses can be helped as easily as the hunting guides by simply moving seasons and trickling back opportunity as is proposed in our supported alternatives. We



pray for relief and regulatory flexibility for the sake of our businesses, our assistant guides, and our communities.

Additional Hunt Opportunities to Consider:

APHA members who conduct baited bear hunts. The following alternatives were generated by consensus and would affect a variety of GMU's. Please consider generating a proposal to address these concerns, ideas:

Increase the number of allowable baits from 10 to 20 for 2021 spring season.

Discussion:

This would allow for an increase in opportunity next year without crowding onto a limited number of baits or requiring registration of an additional area.

Allow all bait season to run continuously through the summer and fall (close Dec 31, 2020).

Discussion:

This would allow some flexibility in opportunity if COVID measures are relaxed. This solution will not assist guides with robust fall seasons, it is more designed for bear baiters who rely on baiting for their income.

There was discussion about conflicts with moose hunters in the fall. It may be appropriate to close baiting during the moose season. Closure during moose season was not a consensus but it was discussed.

Sincerely,

Thor Stacey

Director of Government Affairs



ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE

April 13, 2020

Re: Alaska Wildlife Alliance comments on April 14th Special Meeting

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

On behalf of the members of the Alaska Wildlife Alliance, please accept the following comments regarding the April 14, 2020 special meeting.

Open a spring 2021, resident and nonresident brown bear hunting season in Game Management Unit (GMU) 9 under 5 AAC 85.020.

Citing concerns from ADF&G presentations and testimony at the 2018 and 2019 Board of Game meetings, Alaska Wildlife Alliance requests that the Board **not permit consecutive seasons** for brown bears in Unit 9 for the following reasons:

1. Biological Concerns

- In 2018, ADF&G reported a suspected lost cohort of young and middle-aged bears in the 2012/2013 seasons. Dave Crowley presented that the agency was seeing bears dead in dens in May and June of 2012, and that the failed berry crops in 2013-2015 added pressure on young and middle-aged brown bears.
 - Crowley, at the 2019 Board of Game meeting, testified on Proposal 147 stating concern for expanding the Spring season because evidence remained that hunters were overharvesting the older age class ([10:36 am audio](#)). The missing cohort and increase in hunters, “puts **unsustainable pressure on older bears**” in Unit 9B ([10:36 audio](#)). Approving consecutive seasons would already be anomalous for Unit 9, but particularly concerning given the existing hunting pressures on older bears.
- Overall population decline
 - At the 2018 Board of Game meeting, Unit 9 area biologist Dave Crowley testified on Proposal 132, to open a resident-only early season for the registration brown bear hunts in Unit 9, or open resident-only registration or drawing permit hunts. During his testimony, Dave Crowley reported the following:
 - There is an overall population decline in Unit 9 bears since the early 2000s and that he is concerned “**hunters are mining out the last of the big adults**” ([8:58 am audio](#)). Crowley reported that during the last three hunt periods, the proportion of females killed suddenly dropped, and in 2011 (before the cohort loss) female harvest dropped. Crowley testified that this couldn't be explained by harvest or management because there had not been a season change and it was before the weather events that led to the cohort loss. “This shows two



ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE

things,” Crowley said, “**a long-term population decline since 2000 and on top of that a cohort loss**” ([9:59 am audio](#)). Again, this area has not seen consecutive hunts in decades, so what has changed, from a Board and biological perspective, to consider consecutive seasons given these biological concerns just two years ago?

- The brown bear population could not sustain an annual resident-only hunt in addition to the biennial hunt. Crowley was very clear that **the agency is against an increase in bear harvest and does not support consecutive resident hunts because of biological concerns** ([8:32 am audio](#)). The 2021 Spring hunt before the Board today considers consecutive resident *and* non-resident hunts. If a consecutive resident-only hunt was denied on grounds of biological concern in 2018, what biological conditions have changed in 2020 to make consecutive seasons (for both residents and non-residents) a consideration? How can the agency insure that consecutive seasons, even if they predict a low hunter turn-out in Spring 2020, will not result in an increase in harvest?
 - In 2019, Crowley testified that moose calf mortality is not closely tied to brown bears. Letting the population rest for one season could help build-up the population and would not pose significant threat to moose populations.
2. Since there is no biological reason for adding a season, we assume that this proposal, if not exclusively brought forward as a favor to guides, is adding seasons to disincentivize resident bear hunters from breaking the Governor’s ban on intrastate travel. This is not an acceptable reason for the Board to downplay biological concerns.
- Protecting Alaskan communities, especially remote villages, from Covid-19 is an admirable aspiration for the Board. **If this is truly the intention of this proposal, the Board would close the 2020 Spring hunt to resident and non-resident hunters, and only then consider adding a season.**
 - From conversations with agency biologists and Board members, the call for this proposal came from guides asking the Board to help the recoup financial losses due to Covid-19. Everyone is affected economically by the pandemic, not just professional hunting guides, and every Alaskan business has access to applying for financial relief. **We appreciate that the Board is trying to help guides in this difficult time, but there is no Board mandate or authority for protecting the financial interests of any specific user group, especially if that decision poses a biological risk that causes further damage at the expense of other industries.** If bear populations decline, the wildlife viewing industry will not only face unprecedented losses in 2020, but in subsequent years as well.
 - It is economically important to keep this bear population stable, not only for guiding, but wildlife viewing. A [May 2019 study](#) by the University of Alaska Fairbanks concluded that



ALASKA WILDLIFE ALLIANCE

remote-access bear viewing, exactly the kind provided by brown bears in Unit 9, annually supports \$36.3 million in production and **contributes \$19 million in value added to the Southcentral region**. Spending by service providers in the wildlife viewing industry and households supports approximately \$17.3 million annually in labor income and 490 jobs in the Southcentral region. Adding a consecutive brown bear season, especially during an overall population decline and lacking cohort, will only exacerbate the losses for wildlife viewing industries in future years. If there is an overharvest from consecutive seasons, as the Board and ADF&G have expressed concerns about since the 1970s, the Board will have managed exclusively for one user group, at the expense of all other wildlife-consuming industries (wildlife watching ecotourism, hunting).

- Lack of safeguards to quickly remedy an overharvest. In 2018, biologist Dave Crowley testified that **closing hunts in Unit 9 by emergency order is not feasible** due to area vastness and the costs of travel for hunters. If there is an overharvest, how would the Board and agency 1) know if the population has declined outside of harvest data (cub production, etc) 2) issue a closure to prevent further biological decline?

Thank you for receiving these comments, and we hope that the staff and Board are staying safe and healthy during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Nicole Schmitt
Executive Director

4/14/2020 - BOG Special Meeting Comments

AK Adventures <dave@akadventures.us>

Mon 4/13/2020 11:06 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Dear Board of Game Members:

Re: Opening a spring 2021, resident and nonresident brown bear hunting season in Game Management Unit (GMU) 9 under 5 AAC 85.020.

I am opposed to creating an additional spring brown bear hunting season in 2021 in Game Management Unit (GMU) 9. If this hunt were to occur, the fall 2020 hunt must be cancelled. Having 3 consecutive hunts in a 12-month period in areas like GMU 9C and 9E where overharvesting has occurred poses a conservation concern for this population of bears.

While I understand the impacts to guided hunters from restricted travel due to the Covid-19 pandemic, as a small tourism operator I too will suffer this coming season. It is important for all users that a healthy population of bears is maintained for this region.

I also oppose the Board of Game (BOG) developing their own proposals, especially given the public was afforded only 5 days to comment during the COVID-19 pandemic and over a holiday weekend. There is no biological emergency requiring that the BOG act on this issue at this time but rather a future financial remedy which I'm not sure is under the BOG's purview.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Regards,

Dave

Dave Bachrach
AK Adventures, Inc.
PO Box 2828
Homer, AK 99603

Spring bison hunt interruption

Bartelli <bartelli@mtaonline.net>

Sat 4/11/2020 8:23 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Greetings,

While this meeting is focusing on spring bear hunt disruptions, I would ask respectfully that the spring bison hunts in the Farewell area were also disrupted by covid-19 restrictions and ask that these hunts that are long awaited and difficult to draw may possibly also be included in the waiver and rescheduled for the following year. I've been putting in for this hunt for 30 years and would certainly be considered as a once-in-a-lifetime hunt. The government imposed restrictions caused me to lose this opportunity. Thank you for any consideration regarding this. Hoping that a board generated proposal will emerge supporting this.

Regards,

Stephen Bartelli

Sent from my iPhone

Transfer of Spring Bear Hunt Permits

Bill Bast <wbast@yahoo.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 9:17 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

I am writing to voice my support of allowing the transfer of the 2020 Spring Bear Hunt Draw Permits to a future hunt. I was one of the fortunate Alaskan residents to draw a 2020 Spring Kodiak Brown Bear Tag and due to the COVID-19 pandemic - am forced to stay home and not use it.

To my knowledge, the island of Kodiak has no cases of COVID-19. If these draw permits are not allowed to be re-issued sometime in the future, I fear some resident hunters who have these permits will make their way to Kodiak to use it since these are such coveted and hard to draw permits. And this could potentially put Kodiak at risk of having the virus brought to the island.

This is clearly an unprecedented situation and unprecedented situations call for unconventional answers. It is perfectly reasonable to re-issue the Resident 2020 Spring Kodiak Brown Bear permit holders with the exact same permits in 2022 - two years from now. I am aware that all of the 2021 Spring permits for these Kodiak Brown Bear hunts have been awarded. This solution would not impact these hunters at all. Deferring awarded draw hunts for deploying resident military serviceman is already a practice that is in place by the ADF&G and thus would not be a complex solution to implement.

Please do the right thing that is fair to those of us Alaskans who were fortunate enough to draw their dream Kodiak Brown Bear permit in 2020 and allow the transfer of the tag to a future date.

Respectfully,

Bill Bast

Transfer of 2020 spring brown bear season draw permit

Dave Bergman <downtowndududave@yahoo.com>

Thu 4/9/2020 7:44 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Good day.

Hope this comment finds you well. I am very supportive of Kodiak drawing permits being able to be transferred to another year for residents. The economic impact as we know is massive. The covid pandemic is unfortunate and horrific. I have been applying for this particular permit for 8 years before finally successfully drawing. With travel suspended amongst the state arriving into Kodiak is not possible, let alone, this hunt requires planning and until this point none has been done as travel is suspended.

An idea moving forward would be transfer the 2020 spring hunts to 2021. Those successful for spring 2021 transfer to 2022 and conduct no draw for spring of 2022. This scenario enables all successful drawing the permit the ability to hunt. Or another option is to allow 2-3 years to use your tag.

Thank you for your time in this matter. Look forward to a final answer on the way ahead which identifies and delivers answers.

Dave Bergman
Downtowndududave@yahoo.com
775 721 1057

Sent from my iPhone



**Department of Commerce, Community,
and Economic Development**

BIG GAME COMMERCIAL SERVICES BOARD

P.O. Box 110806
Juneau, AK 99811-0806
Main: 907.465.2543
Toll free fax: 907.465.2974

April 13, 2020

Chairman Ted Spraker
State of Alaska, Board of Game

RE: Support of

Dear Chairman Spraker,

As you know, the State of Alaska Big Game Commercial Services Board is tasked with regulating the Professional Big Game Guiding and Transporter industries in the State of Alaska.

We understand Governor Dunleavy's recent decision to close the Spring 2020 Non-Resident Bear Hunting Season statewide in the interest of public health and safety considering the COVID-19 pandemic that has gripped our nation and world.

This is a difficult situation for our licensees and will significantly contribute to their hardship during these challenging times but collectively, as a whole, I believe the Professional Big Game Guiding and Transporter industries understand the reasoning behind the decision to close the Spring 2020 Non-Resident Bear season in Alaska and are generally supportive of this decision.

Of utmost and grave concern to our licensees is what can be done in the future to try to rectify the cancelling of this upcoming Spring 2020 Non-Resident Bear season and it is my clear understanding that as whole, the Professional Big Game Guiding industry is supportive of the Board of Game board generated proposals, as outlined below:

- 1.) Open a spring 2021, resident and nonresident brown bear hunting season in Game Management Unit (GMU) 9 under 5 AAC 85.020;
- 2.) Modify 5 AAC 92.050(6) to allow the transfer of 2020 spring season drawing permits to a future year for hunting black bear in GMUs 1-3, and brown and grizzly bear in GMUs 4, 8, 10, 14C, 22, and 26B.



The State of Alaska Big Game Commercial Services Board has reviewed these proposed changes that the Board of Game will consider on Tuesday, April 14th during the special meeting. Aside from Mr. Larry Van Daele, the Board of Game designated appointee to the Big Game Commercial Services Board who appropriately abstained from voting, all currently active and engaged Big Game Commercial Services board members have voted in full support of these proposed changes and hopes the Board of Game will vote to pass these changes, as proposed.

I thank you and your board members for your time and consideration and the Big Game Commercial Services Board stands ready to assist the Board of Game in any way that we can to help our state, it's people and its resources through this unique and challenging time we all find ourselves in.

Sincerely,

Henry D. Tiffany IV

Henry D. Tiffany IV
Chairman, BGCSB

Special Board Meeting

aaron bloomquist <bloomya@hotmail.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 9:43 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Board Members,

I support the two stated purposes of the Apr 14 Special Meeting.

I would also ask the Board to consider extending Baited Bear seasons through summer and Fall this year. With travel restrictions for residents between communities and an outright bear season closure for nonresidents, these seasons are negatively impacted as much, or in some cases more than the ones already under consideration. Most areas with spring baiting for bears have a healthy enough bear population that Conservation would not be a concern with extended seasons, especially considering the very low harvest that will occur this spring.

Thank you,

Aaron Bloomquist
907-982-2471

Comment for April 14th, Agenda Item 2, GMU 1-3

Ken Brough <akbrough1@gmail.com>

Sun 4/12/2020 1:18 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

I wish to comment regarding agenda item 2, transfer of 2020 spring black bear drawing permits of GMU 1-3 to a future year. It seems it would be premature at this time to make a decision regarding allowing these permits to be transferred to a future year. The current emergency closure for the spring season is thru May 31st but the season runs to June 30th for these units. So these permit holders still have the ability to use their 2020 permits and hunt this year. Until the close of the season it will not be know how many hunters use their permits nor how many bears are harvested. Waiting until the season is over would provide the time to get valuable additional information to properly evaluate this decision. There is no additional harm to any of the permit holders of these units to wait until after the regular scheduled date of the season closure in June to make any decision. Trying to make a decision now without adequate information could be harmful while lacking any meaningful benefit.

A decision now to transfer permits to a future year could have the effect of encouraging all hunters to not consider coming in June even if deemed a safe and appropriate option by then. That would not be in the best interest of either wildlife management nor our already damaged economy.

If there were still some lingering concerns regarding the virus spread in June; lodges, guides and the hunters can develop plans to minimize any coronavirus concerns just as many other businesses are currently doing. With so many things still changing and subject to change it does not seem it would be appropriate to consider a transfer of the GMU 1-3 spring 2020 permits to the future yet. It would be inconsistent with the directives of our governor who has advised that we proceed with decisions in a cautious manner.

Thank you.

Ken Brough

Whale Pass, AK

April 10, 2020

To: Board of Game, State of Alaska

From: Jason Bunch, Kodiak AK

Regarding: Unit 8 special consideration for proposals.

Chairman Spraker and members of the Board of Game,

Thank you for the opportunity to share ideas and thoughts in consideration of board generated proposals to support lost hunting opportunity for Unit 8 Kodiak Brown Bear.

As a Guide-Outfitter, I support the board generated proposal to modify 5 AAC 92.050(6) to allow the transfer of non-resident 2020 Spring season drawing permits to spring of 2021 in lieu of providing additional permits through the 2021 draw cycle. This decision will ensure current financial contracts can be upheld providing some measure of relief to guide businesses affected by the 2020 closure. It will also ensure non-resident hunters, who were fortunate to draw a permit in any of the highly competitive areas, can participate in that hunt. In addition, this will aid businesses in retaining non-resident hunters who are currently contracted for subsequent years.

As a resident of Kodiak, I support the same mechanism for resident permits awarded for spring 2020 that cannot be safely utilized due to travel restrictions from COVID-19 mandates. These permits are not easily drawn and are one of the most coveted hunting privileges a resident can have. For residents of Kodiak who utilize their permits in 2020, I would expect those permits could be available during the 2021 draw cycle.

Thank you for your consideration in these trying times.



Jason Bunch
Kodiak, Alaska

Spring 2020 Bear Hunt Propositions

Christopher Burgan <azinak7@outlook.com>

Thu 4/9/2020 11:42 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

ALCON,

I am a resident of South Central Alaska and was lucky enough to draw DB245 for the 2021 spring season. Draw odds are better than some but still a coveted tag regardless and will be my first Kodiak Brown Bear hunt. My deposit for air transportation has been in for almost two months already and I've been slowly, and excitedly getting my gear and game plan together for this hunt. I want this hunt to continue to be the wild and out of the way experience that it has always been.

I do not support stacking those hunters that drew tags for this year (Spring 2020) on top of those that drew for 2021. It is not fair to either and would take away from the experience and most likely, the success for both groups. My suggestion is to move the draw tags affected by the COVID-19 cancellations or those also affected by State Mandate 11 and 12, to the spring of 2022. This still provides the hunt that was drawn while not taking away from the experience as well as not potentially having a negative effect on harvest success. The 2020 fall draw application would just not list those hunts that were affected as they would already be filled.

It's a tough spot for all and hopefully a reasonable way ahead can be forged. Thank you for your time and consideration.

V/r,

Christopher Burgan
JBER, AK



April 13, 2020

Chairman Spraker and members of the board,

I am writing concerning potential changes to the spring 2020 Brown bear seasons in Units 8 & 9.

I am a 40-year resident of Kodiak, a Master guide/Outfitter and have extensive experience in these units. I am also chairman of the Kodiak AC, though am writing solely for myself.

As you are aware, Kodiak (Unit 8) resident brown bear tags are highly coveted and hard to draw. I believe the residents who have drawn these tags for the spring of 2020 should have that opportunity moved to the spring of 2021 and those residents that have drawn for the spring of 2021 have their opportunity moved to the spring of 2022.

By doing this, these residents will not lose out on the opportunity to hunt Kodiak and will not be forced to try and hunt this spring and most probably have to break the current mandates regarding social distancing and intra community travel and be potentially liable for the spread of the COV-19 virus.

I would skip the draw for Kodiak bear permits this next cycle, though you could potentially have a very limited draw for those few permits that may be legitimately hunted this spring. While probably not pleasing everyone, I believe it will please the vast majority of permit drawees.

I also favor moving the non-resident tags drawn for Unit 8 this spring to the spring of 2021. This would help those guides with clients on contract to amend those contracts and move forward. As above, I would skip the draw for non-resident tags on Kodiak for this next cycle.

In regards to the Unit 9 2020 spring bear season, I favor pushing both resident and non-resident seasons to the spring of 2021 and not holding a 2020 spring season. While there could be minimal resident use of these permits this spring, the possibility of potential health impacts to these communities and the cost of enforcement for a few participants does not warrant it.

I favor keeping the 2021 Fall and 2022 spring seasons as scheduled to allow for making up some of the economic loss of losing this spring season. I realize there may be some unknown biological consequences. Theoretically, the bears harvested next spring by moving the season forward would have been harvested this spring, so there is potentially no biological issue. If there are biological concerns of having three seasons over a period of 13 months, then I would simply switch the current alternating years system to conduct the spring hunt in odd years and the fall hunt in even years moving forward.

I appreciate all of your time and efforts serving the State of Alaska,

Paul A. Chervenak

Comments on Modifying 5AAC

Atlin Daugherty <akhomefire@yahoo.com>

Sun 4/12/2020 9:15 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Hello Atlin Daugherty here I am a Guide Outfitter in Units 1 and 4. I am hoping the BOG of game will issue each **outfit in unit 4** an additional two brown bear permits for the next two seasons, 2021-2022. (Example, if an outfitter normally gets 6 permits allocated to them then for the 2021 and 2022 seasons they would get 8...the additional two permits could be used spring or fall at the outfitter's discretion). I don't believe 100% recuperation of lost hunt opportunity from the 2020 spring is realistic, but two additional permits per outfit for two years would be a great boost. Talking with other outfitters in unit 4 the general consensus was just that. Two permits for the next two years would be a great economic boost but also keep the harvest relatively close to normal as well as not overcrowd the hunting areas. I think this is a simple solution that would benefit all.

Changing the guide season would be nice but more challenging with other user groups. Extending the fall season to an earlier date and aligning the unit 4 inside drainages season with the unit 4 outside drainages season. This would allow more time to operate the additional permits. Resident hunters would also have the same season extensions as well.

Thanks for your time and consideration

Atlin Daugherty

Bison

Neil DeWitt <neilfxrt84@msn.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 9:32 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Have you thought about the two individuals that were drawn for a once in a lifetime bison hunt? I think it's for the Glennallen area of unit 13? Might be a good idea to speak on this at end of special meeting tomorrow 14 April 20.

Thank you for your time,
Neil DeWitt
Member Anchorage AC

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S10e, an AT&T 5G Evolution capable smartphone

Spring Season - Black bear - 2.) Modify 5 AAC 92.050(6)

Jon Dutton <jon.m.dutton@gmail.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 11:27 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To Whom it may concern,

I am writing you to petition regarding 2020 spring bear season closures. Please do not allow nonresidents who successfully drew a 2020 spring Black Bear permit in GMU's 1-3 to roll their permit to the 2021 season. The risk for crowding of hunters is great. Allowing hunters to roll forward a permit would greatly diminish the safety of those hunters in the field and the quality of the hunt due to overcrowding. Additionally it will have significant impact on harvest for that year and thus the population for years to come.

Instead I request that the ADF&G issue a refund for both the locking tag (if already purchased) and a refund for the nonresident license and any applicable draw fee for that hunt code.

Yours in conservation,

Jon Dutton

Public Comment

Ron Egelston <eggelstonr@yahoo.com>

Sun 4/12/2020 1:52 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>; DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To the Alaska Board of Game,

I support the Open a spring 2021, resident and nonresident brown bear hunting season in Game Management Unit (GMU) 9 provided that the State of Alaska Bear Biologists concur that there is no adverse impact on the brown bear population

I support the proposal to allow the transfer of 2020 spring season drawing permits to a future year for hunting black bear in GMUs 1-3, and brown and grizzly bear in GMUs 4, 8, 10, 14C, 22, and 26B under the following conditions.

1. That NO additional tags are issued to guides or residents in the following years to compensate for the lost revenue for guides and lost hunting opportunities for residents. It is not prudent to increase the number of tags allocated because of a financial hardship or lost hunting opportunity.
2. That the tags be used in 2021 only.
3. That the state NOT conduct a drawing in 2020 for bears in the units that the transfer occurs in.

vr

Ronald Egelston

Kodiak drawing permits

Chris Foster <crf3236@gmail.com>

Thu 4/9/2020 11:07 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

I'm a resident of SE AK and won DB237 for spring 2021. It's a special tag with 1% drawing odds. I've been trying for 15 yrs to hunt this unit.

I want to preserve the unique wilderness aspect of this hunt.

I don't support increased pressure in the unit due to the Covid 19 response without some kind of altered season. Designating hunt dates to the permit holders could mitigate crowding. Expanding the season duration could spread out the pressure.

After all, I'm going up there to hunt the largest land predator on earth and they are not dumb. Increased uncoordinated pressure could create unintended consequences for a once in a lifetime style hunt for this AK resident.

Thanks for your consideration,
Chris Foster
Ketchikan, AK

Board Meeting 4/14

Evan Gilbert <evan.l.gilbert@gmail.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 7:23 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Board Members:

I appreciate the consideration of allowing permit transfers given the unique circumstance this year's pandemic has brought upon us. As a non-resident, when I am lucky enough to draw I always enjoy traveling to Alaska and taking part in hunting black bears.

I would ask to consider having the 2020 tags re-issued to 2021 and the 2021 tags moved to 2022. The 2022 spring hunts could then be excluded from the upcoming draw cycle this fall and then the following year everything would be back to normal.

Again thank you for moving to rectify this given the unprecedented situation this is.

Stay safe!

Regards,

Evan Gilbert

Spring 2020 Bear Tag Reissued for Spring 2021

Troy Givens <troy.r.givens@gmail.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 8:25 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Cc: Dan Harrison <elktalkn@msn.com>

Alaska Board of Game,

Good day to you. My name is Troy Givens (Hunting License #20627977). Myself and my good friend, Mr. Dan Harrison, applied for and drew black bear tags for Kuiu Island for the Fall '19/Spring '20 hunt season. Mr. Harrison and I scheduled our hunt with Calder Mountain Lodge from 26Apr-06May2020.

However, given the memorandum put out by the ADFG on 01Apr, which cancelled all spring bear hunts until 31May, we are unable to execute our hunt as planned. Unfortunately Mr. Harrison and I are not able to move this hunt to after the 31May closure. We have already purchased airline tickets, made hotel reservations, paid the lodge, and purchased our tags and licenses.

I respectfully request that the ADFG allow our tags to be reissued for the Spring '21 black bear season for the same unit.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request. If you have any questions, please contact me anytime.

Respectfully,

Troy R. Givens
Captain(Retired), U.S. Army
(541) 968-4170

Richard A. Guthrie
Master Guide and Outfitter
P.O. Box 220949
Anchorage, AK 99522

April 12, 2020

State of Alaska, Board of Game,

Since Governor Dunleavy and the ADF&G have canceled the Non-Resident Spring 2020 Bear hunting seasons, the concern that people potentially infected with the COVID-19 virus would travel to Alaska, particularly to the remote areas and small villages of Alaska, has been somewhat diminished. However, from what I see, there is still a good deal of apprehension in rural Alaska about non-local people coming into these remote communities. I think it would have been better if the original order, canceling both the Resident and Non-Resident seasons, had been left in place. A review of how the Spanish Flu arrived in Alaska in the Fall of 1918 and spread to rural communities, gives one an appreciation of why rural residents are so concerned about non-local people arriving in their towns. Whether the "outsiders" are Alaska Residents or Non-Residents, I do not think they will be well received in rural communities. Dealing with the spread of the COVID-19 virus is what should be uppermost in everyone's mind, at this time. This is of particular concern when considering that potential carriers of the virus could be traveling to, and possibly spreading the virus to, many rural Alaskan villages, where extremely limited medical care is available.

My following comments, on potential remedies for the cancellation of the Spring 2020 Bear seasons, will be confined to the Game Management Unit-9 (GMU-9) Brown Bear season. My comments are made with the hope that solutions can be found that will minimize the negative economic/financial impact on the Guiding businesses, their employees, other small businesses that provide Big Game Commercial services and their employees, whose livelihoods depend upon these Spring Bear hunting opportunities. My calculations indicate that literally millions of dollars will be lost to small family-owned businesses and to the economy of rural Alaska. Additionally, it should be noted that there will likely be some negative financial impact to the State of Alaska, as well. A solution to this lost hunting opportunity would, hopefully, reduce this negative impact to Alaskan businesses and to the State of Alaska.

In my mind, there seem to be two separate, although related, issues. The first and most immediate concern, is how to handle the canceled Brown Bear season scheduled for May 10-25, 2020. The second issue is how to address GMU-9 Brown Bear seasons going forward.

Richard A. Guthrie
Master Guide and Outfitter
P.O. Box 220949
Anchorage, AK 99522

I believe the most practical way to deal with the first issue, handling the GMU-9 May 2020 season cancellation, would be to simply reschedule that season to May 10-25, 2021.

Since normally there would not be a GMU-9 Brown Bear season in May 2021, rescheduling the May 2020 season to May 2021 should be a fairly straightforward process. However, this would result in some additional opportunity for Residents, since presumably there will now be a Resident season in May 2020 and both Resident and Non-Resident seasons in May 2021. Nonetheless, with the current travel restrictions and the possible closures of some Communities, I would expect that the GMU-9 2020 Brown Bear harvest by Resident hunters will be fairly low.

Of course, my May 2020 Non-Resident clients are anxious to hear if there will be a remedy for their lost opportunity this year. Those of my May 2020 clients that I have talked with or messaged have reacted positively when I have told them that the May 2020 season has been canceled but MIGHT be rescheduled to May 2021. All are happy that they will not be traveling during this period of uncertainty and during a time that might put themselves and others at risk. My clients and I hope that they will be able to reschedule their trips to May 2021 and have the opportunity to complete their GMU-9 Brown Bear hunts then.

With regard to how this change should affect GMU-9 Brown Bear seasons going forward, I see no reason to make any changes to subsequent seasons. It has been mentioned that having three seasons in a row (Spring 2021, Fall 2021 and Spring 2022) might, in some way, be harmful to the resource. However, the only additional effort, opportunity and hunting time available over the three year period 2020, 2021 and 2022 would be the addition of the May 2020 Resident season. As mentioned, I believe that due to the likely travel restrictions and village closures, the May 2020 harvest by Residents will be extremely low.

Going forward, I would NOT support a change to the current GMU-9 Brown Bear season strategy that has been in place for nearly 50 years. Having GMU-9 seasons in alternating Regulatory Years has been a successful strategy and a one time change to the Spring season would not justify restructuring this successful system. The current system allows for one GMU-9 Brown Bear season each Calendar Year. From a business and practical perspective, this is a good system for Guides and other Big Game Commercial Service providers. Business-wise, it is better to have a system that allows one Bear season EACH Calendar Year, rather than a system which would have a Calendar Year with two GMU-9 Bear seasons followed by a Calendar Year with no GMU-9 Bear season.

Richard A. Guthrie
Master Guide and Outfitter
P.O. Box 220949
Anchorage, AK 99522

Protecting the resource is the most important consideration in how the seasons are structured going forward, after the possible one time rescheduling of the May 2020 season. I believe strongly that rescheduling the canceled May 2020 season to May 2021, with no change to subsequent seasons, is the most practical solution and presents no risk to the resource. Also going forward, if the Regulatory system is reworked, I think it would be likely that ADF&G would experience some loss of revenue from license and tag sales, at least in the short term.

Thank you for considering my comments and for addressing the issues brought about by this unprecedented crisis.

Respectfully,

Richard A Guthrie, Master Guide #94



Comments on GMU9 Brown Bear season additions

Wayne Hall <shadow@matnet.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 10:15 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To the Alaska Board of Game, to address the issue of Brown Bear seasons in GMU9,

Unless there is biological data supporting negative impacts of excessive brown bear populations in GMU9, which is clearly not the case, the only other reason for adding a spring season in CY2021 is to provide a financial aid rescue package requested by, and designed specifically for, professional hunting guides. The prosperity of any user group is not the main role of the Board of Game – “to conserve and develop Alaska's wildlife resources”. There is no Board mandate or authority for protecting the financial interests of any specific user group, especially at the expense of others. Financial hardship resulting from the coronavirus and related statewide restrictions are affecting all Alaskans, not just professional hunting guides. And all Alaskans, including professional hunting guides, can take advantage of the same state and federal relief programs available now, or in the future, designed for financial aid. I urge the affected professional guides and outfitters to do just that, and I suspect they will. If so, any financial impact will be mitigated to the same extent as it is everyone else. And since we are all in this together, that is only fair. Most businesses in Alaska and elsewhere have incurred significant losses as well as being forced to make refunds. There are always risks in any business venture and there are established ways of mitigating them. Some businesses plan for them and some don't. But making sweeping wildlife management decisions by adding bonus seasons, based on potential financial hardship to only a specific and small number of users, who can and will benefit from the existing financial relief programs available to all of us, is beyond the Board's scope and authority. It is inappropriate and perhaps illegal and/or unconstitutional.

Evaluating this from a biological perspective, which should be the Board's focus, there is virtually no biological data supporting an added CY2021 Spring season or, worse yet, continuous Spring and Fall seasons, at least three of which would be provided by this proposal (Spring 2021, Fall 2021 and Spring 2022). There have been no recent brown bear population surveys for GMU9. There are no accurate current brown bear population estimates. To the contrary, the only data available is reported harvests, often used by the Board as an indicator of population trends. In the case of GMU9, the reported brown bear harvests, RY2011 to RY2017, show a steady decline. The RY2017 reported harvest is down almost 30% from RY2011. Adding seasons will only put additional hunting pressure on what is already an apparently declining brown bear population. Harvest data, the only data available, does not support adding seasons. It actually suggests reducing hunting pressure. Harvest data may not be perfect but it is better than none. There is no data that suggests the addition of more consecutive seasons is sustainable. In fact, ADFG has deemed “consecutive seasons in Unit 9 unsustainable”.

The suggestion that adding seasons, beginning with Spring 2021, will act as a disincentive to resident bear hunters, who might be tempted to violate current bans on intrastate travel and potential impacts on villages, is disrespectful of ethical hunters who we would expect to abide by those travel restrictions the same as all regulations promulgated by the Board. Furthermore, it is unknown whether the restrictions on intrastate travel, affecting resident hunters, and on interstate travel, affecting non-resident hunters, will remain in effect for much longer. I suspect they will not. Yet, if the intrastate travel ban was a real concern, the 2020 Spring hunt should be closed to resident and non-resident hunters.

The Board should recognize that, due to the virus pandemic, there are many other consumers of brown bears in GMU9, besides professional hunting guides, who are also being impacted by the virtual absence of brown bear-related viewing and tourism this year. Adding more consecutive brown bear seasons will only exacerbate their losses. A May, 2019 study by the University of Alaska Fairbanks concluded that remote-access bear viewing, exactly the kind provided by brown bears in GMU9, is estimated to annually support \$36.3 million in production and contribute \$19 million in value added to the Southcentral region. Spending by service providers and households supports approximately \$17.3 million annually in labor income and 490 jobs in the Southcentral region. Again, everyone is affected economically by the pandemic, not just professional hunting guides. And everyone should have access to available financial relief. But the Board has no mandate to make professional hunting guides whole, perhaps even more than whole, let alone at the further expense and disadvantage to other brown bear-related consumers and providers.



This very process, with email notifications to the public on the afternoon of April 8 and a deadline for comment at noon five days later, with a 3-day holiday weekend in the middle, otherwise appears designed to limit public comment, as much as possible, to the special interest group, in this case outfitters and professional hunting guides, who want this special exception. As a further note, with comments limited to those in writing received before noon on April 13, there should not be any exceptions for oral testimony by any members of the public, including Advisory Committee members.

In summary, absent any legitimate biological data to the contrary, the Board should not propose any changes to the GMU9 brown bear seasons for RY2020. That is, there should be no GMU9 brown bear seasons in RY2020. It is not supported by biology and financial aid to professional hunting guides is not the Board's domain. There should be no CY2021 Spring brown bear season.

Wayne Hall, 42 year Alaska resident

Proposal for meeting on 04/14/2020

Bruce Hallingstad <becharoflodge@icloud.com>

Sun 4/12/2020 1:36 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

My name is Bruce Hallingstad. I have been a registered guide with the state since 1999.
"GUIR 1005"

I just wanted to comment on one of the proposals coming up at your meeting on 04/14/2020

This concerns opening up a special Brown Bear season to residents and nonresidents in the spring of 2021.

Not having a spring bear hunt in unit 9E this year has been a financial burden on my guide business of over 20 years. It is very difficult and expensive to book hunters for our hunts. My customers have trusted us to give them a good hunt this year. They have paid large sums of money (deposits, airfares, special equipment ect..) to come on this is hunt.

I myself have paid large sums of money (doing sports shows, advertising, insurance, land use fees, licenses, new equipment ect...) to be ready for the spring hunt.

This last season (Fall 2019) we had 7days taken out of the peninsula bear hunts. This limited us to half the amount of hunters we could take.

Bear hunting accounts for over half my yearly income. I do understand there are loans available for some of us. I myself don't want to borrow any money from the state or government. My life has been surrounded by hunting. I don't normally ask for extra help. I'm am NOW! NOT in a loan program, but in moving the bear season back to spring 2021.

This should not disrupt the cycle we guides & hunters on the Peninsula have lived with for 30 years.

Even though there is a resident only season going on this May. With all the air closures, village closures there will only be a few bears taken at most. Brown bears are not wanted by the residents as a food source. Most are killed by non residents hunting with state licensed guides.

I have talked to my hunters and they are all willing to put their hunt off until spring 2021. That would still allow us to book hunters for fall 2021. Without too much hardship. I don't believe this change would hurt the bear populations on the peninsula. This would also be good for the small towns & villages that have shut down their borders to outsiders because of the virus that has threatened & changed the lives of most all of us. This doesn't just affect us guides. We all employe help & use local services (Assistant Guides, air charters, lodging, hotels, grocery stores, sporting goods, ect) also State fees, village trespassing fees, BLM permits ect...

I appreciate you taking the time to read this letter. Thank you for considering these changes. Bruce Hallingstad

PS Please feel free to call me if I can help out or answer any questions. 208-337-8211

Sent from Bruce @ Becharof Lodge

Proposal by the board

Drew Hamilton <drew.h.hamilton@gmail.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 11:11 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To whom it may concern:

I would be highly opposed to any proposition by the Board of Game that would allow multiple hunts in any calendar year. Given the recent concerns and discussions regarding the potential for over harvest in Unit 9 any actions to provide more hunting opportunities in the absence of biological emergency would be reckless use of a shared resource. In a time when ALL Alaskans are having to reevaluate priorities and make sacrifices to put the business interests of a small minority over that of most users would be unethical. There are programs in place that would compensate different user groups for lost business and time would be better spent rounding out those programs rather than impacting the businesses of non-consumptive users by recklessly allowing for the potential of over harvest.

The whole timing of this special meeting and announcement of extremely short comment period, over holiday weekend, during a pandemic, erodes confidence in the whole board process.

Drew Hamilton
Homer, AK

Db246 2020

John Hamilton <steelhead1999@yahoo.com>

Thu 4/9/2020 5:50 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Hello, I am one of the resident tag holders affected by the travel ban. I was scheduled to fly out on April 13 and return to Anchorage on April 21st. I am very disappointed that I cannot go, but I completely understand the reasoning and support the states decision to restrict travel. If there were to be a virus outbreak on Kodiak the results would be catastrophic. But I would absolutely love another chance to hunt this tag at a later date. I absolutely love Kodiak in the spring time and being reissued this tag for a later date would be absolutely awesome! Thank you for considering this!

John Hamilton

Sent from my iPhone

Comment on Nonresident Spring Bear Hunting

Brad Henspeter <crr@cvinternet.net>

Mon 4/13/2020 10:15 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To: Alaska Board of Game

From: Brad Henspeter

Regarding: Nonresident Spring Bear Hunting

Dear Board of Game,

I'm writing on my own behalf, but I'm also a member of the Copper Basin F&G Advisory Committee. I would like you to consider allowing those hunters who moved to Alaska in 2019, established residency, and remained in Alaska, to utilize their nonresident black bear tag (purchased in Fall of 2019) in the Spring of 2020, if it remains unfilled.

Example: I have a next-door neighbor who moved his family to Alaska in July, 2019. He purchased a home, began his contracting business, and his wife accepted full-time employment locally. Their children are enrolled in the local school district, and they have lived in the state since their arrival, with plans to remain in Alaska. He purchased a nonresident hunting license and black bear tag last fall. This allowed him to hunt black bear in the fall, with the intent to use the nonresident tag in the spring, if it wasn't filled.

Since he and his family are domiciled and have remained full time residents of the State, please consider allowing him and those in a similar position to use their previously-purchased bear tags in the Spring of 2020, as they will not need to travel to Alaska from out of state.

Thank you.

Brad Henspeter

Copper Center, Alaska

Board of Games Special Meeting Written comments

Jim and Cathy Hodge <cnjhodgesoutfitters@gci.net>

Fri 4/10/2020 3:16 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To Alaska Board of Game:

Just want you to know I appreciate the time and consideration that is being given by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Game to the matter of non-resident Spring 2020 bear permits due to the Corvid-19 situation.

2.) Modify 5 AAC 92.050(6) to allow the transfer of 2020 spring season drawing permits to a future year for hunting black bear in GMUs 1-3, and brown and grizzly bear in GMUs 4, 8, 10, 14C, 22, and 26B.

I would like to suggest rolling the 2020 non-resident Spring bear tags for Kodiak/Afognak over to Spring of 2021. As I am sure you all must know, these tags are a once in a lifetime draw for many of the non-resident permit holders. I would like to be able to give my non-resident clients hope that their dream of actually having drawn be rewarded.

The Fall of 2020 would be a good time for non-residents to put in for the Spring 2022 drawing. The same way it is done for resident hunters. And of course they would also be putting in for the Fall hunts of 2021. The current drawing situation is non-residents put in for the Spring bear hunt in December of the year previous to the hunt. And they are notified of a successful draw in February barely over 1 month prior to their hunt. Non-residents have to arrange travel to Alaska and accommodations in less than one month.

Additionally the non-resident Kodiak Brown bear alternate list is not made public until a few weeks after the drawing. The non-residents who end up with a permit on the alternate list have even less time to plan a hunting trip to Alaska. Having the draw a year in advance will allow those that drew a permit and those chosen from the alternate list a time to plan for their hunt.

If you need any clarification as to my recommendations, please feel free to contact me. Also I have discussed this at length with Nate Svoboda and John Cry of Fish and Game in Kodiak.

Thank you for considering my suggestions.

James Hodge

Hodge's Outfitters
13836 Lake Otis Pkwy
Anchorage AK 99516
cnjhodgesoutfitters@gci.net
hodgesoutfitters.com
907-349-0520 cell 907-240-7021

Proposals for Spring Bear hunters that drew permits for 2020

RICK HOSKINS <huntalaskaoutfitters@gmail.com>

Sat 4/11/2020 5:09 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Hello,

I am a registered hunting guide in unit 8 on Kodiak island. I sat in on a teleconference with the APHA and there was some great input and ideas. I personally feel that anyone resident or nonresident that drew a bear tag for the spring of 2020 should be able to use there unused tag in 2021 unless it's a resident hunter that has already claimed there permit to go hunting. I am for the proposal to 2.) Modify 5 AAC 92.050(6) to allow the transfer of 2020 spring season drawing permits to a future year for hunting black bear in GMUs 1-3, and brown and grizzly bear in GMUs 4, 8, 10, 14C, 22, and 26B.

Thank you

Rick Hoskins
Registered Guide 1331
Hunt Alaska Outfitters
907-654-7484
Huntalaskaoutfitters.com



Spring 2021 resident and nonresident brown bear hunting season in GMU 9

Marilyn <lostinspace@matnet.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 10:57 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Governor Dunleavy has reversed his decision on 2020 spring bear hunts and Alaska residents are permitted to hunt bears this spring despite concerns about the potential spread of Covid-19. Therefore, **I do not understand the need for a spring brown bear hunt in 2021 in GMU 9 and do not support it – it means there will be two consecutive spring brown bear hunts, 2020 and 2021.**

Unless it is for the professional guides/hunters.

There is federal money available to assist small businesses so the guides should be taking advantage of that. They should not be receiving that assistance in 2020, then making more money in 2021 off of brown bear hunts. Additionally, it is not the purview of the Board to address the financial concerns of professional guides. The Board of Game “is the state’s regulatory authority that passes regulations to conserve and develop Alaska’s wildlife resources.”

Perhaps the intent is to move toward an annual spring brown bear hunt in GMU 9. Guides will tell you brown bear numbers are already down in GMU 9. The population cannot sustain an annual hunt. The specter of Pebble Mine and associated infrastructure and development, including a road to haul the ore to Amakdedori on Cook Inlet, will also impact brown (and black) bear populations.

Marilyn Houser
Anchorage

Resident hunt for bear hunt to continue

Brian Yahoo <bkmail71@yahoo.com>

Sat 4/11/2020 4:20 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

I approve proposal #1, Open the resident bear hunt scheduled for gmu 9 this spring 2020.

Sincerely,

Brian Karcheski

Resident of Ak.

Sent from my iPhone

Fwd: Resident hunt for bear hunt to continue

Brian Yahoo <bkmail71@yahoo.com>

Sat 4/11/2020 4:27 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

> I approve proposal #2 also.

> Allow the transfer of permits to another year as stated.

> Sincerely,

> Brian Karcheski

> Resident of Ak.

>

> Sent from my iPhone



BOG comments GMUs 8 and 9

Joey Klutsch <joeyklutsch@gmail.com>

Sun 4/12/2020 3:10 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Boar of Game members,

I am a lifelong resident of Bristol Bay and guiding hunters is my main occupation. I have been guiding for 17 years now. I am also a subsistence user and a member of the Naknek/Kvichak Advisory Committee. I support the following proposals

GMU 8

Work with Fish and Game to allow winners of permits for spring 2020 who were not able to hunt, to utilize their permits in spring of 2021. If possible, add addition permits for spring 21, 22, & recapture some of lost opportunity from 2020 season where feasible.

GMU 9

Open a spring brown bear season in GMU 9 for Residents and Non-Residents for spring of 2021. This will allow guides who have hunters booked for 2020 to take their hunters in spring 2021. There should not be a net increase in harvest due to extremely limited (resident and nonresident) opportunity in 2020 (and no nonresident opportunity). Continue with the fall 2021 season as planned. Seasons on the Alaska Peninsula should be left on the original alternating basis (spring and fall odd years) after this. Do not attempt to remake the alternating seasons on the Alaska Peninsula.

I appreciate you taking my thoughts into consideration.

Joey Klutsch/Registered Guide 1277

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Joey Klutsch
Registered Guide
Aniakchak Guide Service
Katmai Guide Service

PO Box 222
King Salmon, AK 99613
(907) 469-3033
www.joeyklutsch.com

Unit 9 bear season

Colleen Lahndt <akmasterguide@gmail.com>

Fri 4/10/2020 8:40 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Opening a 2021 spring season for both resident and nonresident in Unit 9 is the most logical decision, both economically and biologically.

Sincerely,

Laine W Lahndt

Kasilof, AK

Special meeting regarding bear hunts.

Patrice Lee <patricelee3294@gmail.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 10:45 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Chair Spraker,

In light of the Governor's mandate 10 and 11 regarding the management of Covid-19 in Alaska, all non-resident hunting for the rest of 2020 should be cancelled if it is not already cancelled.

Moving the 2020 permits to 2021 will only work if 2021 permits are not issued or issued in significantly lower numbers. Doubling the number of hunters with permits in 2021 to include those from 2020 would not represent good game management.

Exposing Alaskans, especially those living in rural areas and villages to asymptomatic persons who haven't been tested for Covid-19 is grossly irresponsible. Given the lack of testing and access to medical help and flights to get medical help, no persons should travel out of their routine, local areas to hunt, following the Governor's guidelines.

The non-resident hunts should include communication with all non-resident hunters who have obtained permits to inform them not to come to Alaska. There will be no 2020 hunt. Persons coming to Alaska from other parts of the U.S. and other countries would be required to quarantine for 14 days anyway.

Hopefully this has already happened and no new permits are being issued for 2020.

As to intrastate travel to hunt, the local and state rules should apply. Bear hunting is not essential except for those who depend on the bear meat for food.

Thank you,
Patrice Lee

Comments, Support & Suggestions Regarding Bear Season Date Changes

Dave Leonard <akdaveleonard@hotmail.com>

Sun 4/12/2020 3:26 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Dear ADF&G & Members of the State Board of Game,

My name is Dave Leonard, Master Guide & Outfitter #81 and owner operator of Mountain Monarchs of Alaska.

I've been an Alaskan Guide for over 40 years and run my long time established Brown Bear Camp in GMU 9D

out of David River near Nelson Lagoon, AK.

I totally agree with the recent closure of Bear season to Non Residents specifically in Unit 9. With the present Virus Pandemic, and potential for the spread of the CoVid 19 Virus, I support rolling the 2020 Bear season over to May of 2021 in Unit 9. Hopefully by then, we will have a vaccine.

In the meantime, I have grave concerns over leaving the season open to Residents, specifically in Unit 9 during the Spring 2020 /season (May 10 thru 25). The primary purpose of this closure was to keep the potential for virus spread

out of the villages and bush communities. I have spoken with a number of native elders from bush communities

including Nelson Lagoon and they are very worried about the virus and the way it can be spread. Just one carrier

can be devastating to many.

Whether it is contracted from a Non Resident or an Alaskan Resident makes no difference The highly contagious

virus, is what it is, but there are a good number of elders that are prime candidates in the villages .

These villages often serve as fueling points and staging areas for aircraft and bush logistics.

I respect Residents having hunting opportunities this Spring, but I highly recommend and ask each of you to

reconsider your previous action regarding a Statewide open Bear season for Alaskan Residents where bush

villages and rural isolated communities are involved.

We are still under intrastate travel mandates at this time by the Governor. If this changes and reopens, there is opportunity

on the road system offering snow machine & ATV access where it wouldn't effect an entire village.

Additionally, I support the Proposal submitted by the Alaska Chapter of Safari Club International. They mention some good solutions to this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I greatly appreciate your consideration in this serious matter.

We are all in this together.

Respectfully Yours,

Dave Leonard



Dave Leonard
Master Guide & Outfitter #81
Mountain Monarchs of Alaska LLC
907 252 4952 c.

extending kodiak bear tags

Hugh Leslie <Hugh.Leslie@matsugov.us>

Mon 4/13/2020 9:15 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to support the suggestion to push the 2020 Spring Brown Bear Season off to another year. I drew DB232 for this Spring and of course at this point it is impossible to go. Even if the travel ban was removed, putting together a trip of this magnitude at the last minute could have disastrous results. While I am disappointed in the closure, I do support the reasons for the decision. And I would hope to be able to go in the Spring of 2021.

Sincerely,

Hugh Leslie

11505 East Equestrian Street

Palmer, AK 99645

(907)792-9959

2020 Spring Bear Season

tim mccormick <mccormickt@hotmai.com>

Wed 4/8/2020 5:24 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

2020 Spring Bear Season

Alaska Board of Game,

Let me start off by saying given the current situation around the world, we all have more important priorities to deal with and safety should be at the top of our list. Although I was disappointed to hear the spring bear season is closed, the decision is insignificant compared to the potential impact to human life. Please do not take this as a selfish email, rather something to consider down the road as you discuss options.

I was fortunate enough to have drawn a resident 2020 Kodiak spring bear permit....as we know, a highly coveted permit and hard one to get. In a April 1st press release, it was mentioned there will be future discussions with the department and the board to try and figure out how best to address individuals that had a spring 2020 hunt planned. What if you allowed the 2020 Kodiak spring permit holders to hunt the 2021 spring season and 2021 permit holders to hunt the 2022 spring season. You would need to eliminate the 2022 spring draw application coming up with the December 2020 deadline. You have a list of the successful 2020 Kodiak spring applicants and giving them the option of the 2021 spring bear tag seems fair. I realize you can't please everyone, but recognizing those of us who in theory are first up....seems prudent. I'm sure you realize that many of us currently have a substantial investment with new gear, equipment, guns ect. preparing for potentially a once in a lifetime hunt.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and consider the option I laid out. If you have questions or would like to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact me.....thanks

Tim McCormick
907-953-0930
mccormickt@hotmai.com

Board of Game Special Session Comments



Brian McKay <alaskaoutdoorsaddiction@gmail.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 8:33 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To Alaska Board of Game:

We want you to know that we appreciate the time and consideration that is being given by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Board of Game to the matter of non-resident Spring 2020 bear permits due to the Corvid-19 situation.

2.) Modify 5 AAC 92.050(6) to allow the transfer of 2020 spring season drawing permits to a future year for hunting black bear in GMUs 1-3, and brown and grizzly bear in GMUs 4, 8, 10, 14C, 22, and 26B.

I would like to suggest rolling the 2020 non-resident Spring bear tags for Kodiak/Afognak over to Spring of 2021. As I am sure you all must know, these tags are a once in a lifetime draw for many of the non-resident permit holders. I would like to be able to give my non-resident clients hope that their dream of actually having drawn be rewarded.

The Fall of 2020 would also be a opportunity for non-residents to put in for the Spring 2022 drawing. The same way it is done for resident hunters. And of course they would also be putting in for the Fall hunts of 2021. The current drawing situation is non-residents put in for the Spring bear hunt in December of the year previous to the hunt. And they are notified of a successful draw in February barely over 1 month prior to their hunt. Non-residents then have to arrange travel to Alaska and accommodations in less than one month whereas this would give them ample time to plan their trip or Cancel if need be.

Additionally the non-resident Kodiak Brown bear alternate list is not made public until a few weeks after the drawing. The non-residents who end up with a permit on the alternate list have even less time to plan a hunting trip to Alaska. Having the draw a year in advance will allow those that drew a permit and those chosen from the alternate list a time to plan for their hunt.

If you need any clarification as to these recommendations, please feel free to contact myself or James Hodge. we have also discussed this at length with Nate Svoboda and John Cry of Fish and Game in Kodiak.

Thank you for considering these suggestions and if nothing else, I hope that the tags that were not able to be used this year can at least have the opportunity to hunt next spring. In this time of uncharted and uncertain times, I think that it is important to remember that the Kodiak hunts have not been cancelled like this in sometime and that it only fair to give those draw winners an opportunity to fulfill their dreams. Unprecedented times call for unprecedented action. We have not seen a situation like this in our lifetimes so I believe that the solution should be just as unique. We cannot solve this based on what we have done in the past as this has never happened before.

Thanks for your consideration,

Brian McKay

Registered Guide Outfitter

Hodge's Outfitters and Alaska Outdoors Addiction

Sent from my iPhone

Comment for transfer of permits for hunting black bear in GMUs 1-3

the_millers@caldermountainlodge.com <the_millers@caldermountainlodge.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 9:41 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To Whom It May Concern:

We would like to comment regarding agenda item 2, transfer of 2020 Spring Black Bear permits for GMU 1-3 to a future year.

Since the draw has already taken place for the 2020 fall and 2021 spring hunt, we would recommend that the 2020 spring permits be transferred to the fall of 2021 and spring of 2022. We feel that those that have a 2020 spring black bear tag should have their tags rolled to the fall of 2021 and spring of 2022 if they still want to utilize their tags. We would suggest putting a deadline on when the permit holders would need to contact Alaska Department of Fish and Game to be eligible to have their tags transferred to the fall of 2021 and spring of 2022.

There is still a possibility that some of these permit holders could come in early June and utilize their tags for the 2020 spring hunt. This would be a huge benefit for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The economic impact caused by the cancellation of the 2020 spring bear hunt will be partially negated by allowing June bear hunts.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Bob & Pat Miller, owners

Calder Mountain Lodge

Point Baker, AK

Hunting season move date

Clint Miller <clint.miller@hotmail.com>

Wed 4/8/2020 1:54 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Please move the hunts for unit 9 to next spring and please please move all permits that are effected this spring and this fall and next winter for MuskoX and winter hunts if affected! I put in for 25 years to draw a MuskoX tag and I'm 43 years old and was born here! Please move these tags until we can hunt them! It's the only fair and rite thing to do!!!!

Clint Miller

907-440-0280

Sent from my iPhone

Draw hunt date shift

Josh Montgomery <joshnerika782@gmail.com>

Wed 4/8/2020 3:56 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Please consider removing the spring draw hunts for 2022 from the December 2020 draw application. This will allow a shift for the 2020 draw winners to 2021. The spring 2021 hunts would then be able to take place in 2022. These are once in a lifetime hunts for many of us and this will ensure everyone gets the opportunity. Thank you for your consideration.

Spring Bear Transfer

Jared Moon <moonjm@umich.edu>

Wed 4/8/2020 6:18 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

ADFG Team,

First, thank you for considering the transferring of draw spring bear permits to 2021. I am happy that your team is even considering it. I was fortunate enough to draw a permit to hunt spring bear on Prince of Wales island for this year but unfortunately I am unable to hunt this season. I am both a non-resident of Alaska and am restricted from traveling until at least the middle of May - perhaps longer. This means I can't easily plan a hunt for the time period for which I was planning. I would be EXTREMELY happy to see you post pone the hunt until next year. I understand this might cause some problems for whomever drew for spring 2021 (perhaps their year is delayed as well? Might result in a no draw for 2022?) but I know I would 100% be in Alaska in the spring of 2021 - which based on how I allocate my yearly backcountry hunting means I will be back in the fall of 2021 chasing Moose, Caribou, and maybe a few wolves.

Second, I understand this can be very problematic and a difficult decision and I want to legitimately say I trust ADFG more than any other state game commission/department in the United States. Keep up the good work, I know you will do what is best for the animals, the hunters, and the state! So whatever you choose, keep up the good work...I'll be back to hunt big bears and moose in no time regardless of what happens.

Respectfully,

Jared M. Moon
Major, US Army
(925) 667-6695
jaredmoon@live.com | jared.m.moon.mil@mail.mil

Proposal - Unit 8

Mike Munsey <munseymike12@gmail.com>

Sun 4/12/2020 1:14 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Board of Game Special Meeting - April 14, 2020

Proposal - Unit 8

Dear Board of Game members,

Simply transferring all Unit 8 Spring 2020 nonresident bear hunters to Spring 2021 would be financially disastrous to the guiding industry on Kodiak because most guides already have a full slate of hunters booked for 2021 and would require moving those hunters or returning their deposits. I propose that in addition to moving the Spring 2020 hunters to Spring 2021 that one additional nonresident permit be allocated to each permit area on Kodiak in the Spring of 2021 and one additional permit to each permit area in Spring of 2022. This would reduce the financial burden on the guides as well as provide a much needed economic boost to the town of Kodiak. From a management standpoint, one additional permit per area for two years would still result in a lower harvest level if averaged over those three years in question (2020, 2021 and 2022). Also, some Spring 2020 hunters would not be able to hunt in Spring 2021 for various reasons (prior commitments, etc), in which case they should be allowed to cancel their permits at any time during the year and that permit should become available on a registration basis.

As an alternate proposal, keep the Spring 2021 drawing intact for hunters already booked and accommodate Spring 2020 nonresident bear hunters on a one permit increase per area basis in 2021 and 2022 until all canceled hunters are accommodated.

Thank you.

Mike Munsey
Munsey's Bear Camp
Kodiak, Alaska

bear tag transfer

John Napolski <jnapolski@icloud.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 9:56 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice my opinion on the possibility of having the bear permits issued for 2020 to be transferred to the next year (2021). I am a winner of a Kodiak DB241 permit. Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and the restrictions in place in Alaska it is impossible to participate in this hunt. I would like the opportunity to go on this hunt but this is only possible if the permits are transferred to 2021. Please understand that some of us wait a lifetime to go on this hunt and that this hunt is something that is a huge financial impact on a family as most of us, like myself start planning as soon as we get the tag and purchasing items to make this hunt happen. It is also something that I have been planning as a part of my Alaska bucket list and by denying me this it may be something that I may never get to do in my lifetime or may be too old to actually participate in. I think all bear permit winners affected by the Cover-19 pandemic should have their permits extended to the following year because this is something that affected us and was out of everyone's control. Please take this under consideration, as a hunter and an Alaska resident this hunt means something to me and my family and to take it away after losing so much to this pandemic just seems so disheartening. Please consider what these permits mean to Alaskans, both financially and to our Alaska spirit as most of us live for these hunts as a part of our bucket list!

Thank you,

John Napolski



April 14, 2020

Alaska Board of Game
dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

RE: Proposal to open a spring 2021 resident and nonresident brown bear hunting season in Game Management Unit (GMU) 9 under 5 AAC 85.020

Dear Board of Game:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is America's only private nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated solely to protecting, preserving, and enhancing the U.S. National Park System for present and future generations. Founded in 1919, NPCA has more than 1.3 million members and supporters.

Units 9A, 9B and 9C encompass Katmai and Lake Clark National Park. Both parks host brown bears that people come from all over the world to see. They are a significant economic driver for both southwest and southcentral Alaska communities. The unit 9A, B and C populations in general drive a very significant bear-viewing industry that takes place on both state and federal lands. A 2019 study by the University of Alaska Fairbanks found that the total annual economic value of bear-viewing likely exceeds \$35 million/year to southcentral Alaska.

The consecutive year hunt to be discussed by the Alaska Board of Game (Board) comes at a time when signs in units 9A, B and C all point to a need for conservative bear management. Decreasing harvest, anecdotal stories from bear-viewing and bear-hunting guides about fewer bears and the looming threat of significant road and industry development in the region due to Pebble Mine and a subsequent dramatic increase in DLP and other kills make it clear that responsible management of the region requires great care in terms of brown bear management. NPCA would emphasize this last point in particular—the development of Pebble Mine has the potential to alter and significantly decrease the bear population and hunting opportunities in the region and the Board needs to plan for that possibility by ensuring strong and stable populations now.

NPCA recognizes the economic impact Covid-19 is having on bear guides, bear-viewing guides, flight operators, other tourism operators and the community restaurants, hotels, bed and breakfasts and many other businesses hurt by Covid-19. We appreciate the Board's efforts to minimize those impacts. As the Board crafts its proposal, we urge them to clearly articulate and balance the potential short-term gain to guides with the potential short and long-term loss to bear-viewing and the tourism industry that so many Alaska businesses rely upon not just this year or next, but for many years to come. The Board should be clear about how and why it believes its actions are beneficial to the state economy, particularly in light of Unit 9 bear population trends.

Finally, we urge the Board to consider the world-famous bear-viewing areas in McNeil River State Game Sanctuary and Katmai and Lake Clark National Park. Their economic value is extremely significant, but they must also be recognized as special places that millions of Americans care about deeply. Please ensure that they have healthy, sustainable bear populations for years to come.

Sincerely,

Jim Adams
Alaska Regional Director
National Parks Conservation Association

POW black bear permit

matthewp <matthewp@ruraltel.net>

Thu 4/9/2020 8:52 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Hello-

I am a NR that was fortunate to draw a coveted permit to hunt black bear on Prince of Wales Island. I am requesting consideration to reissue the permit for next year due to the cancellation of the bear season due to the Covid Pandemic.

Each year the draw odds indicate obtaining the permit is becoming increasingly difficult. Due to the mandatory closure and restrictions please consider my request. I have been planning this trip with friends for some time and intended to spend money in the local economy that would benefit AK residents.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,
Matt Palmquist
Grainfield, KS

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone



THE PERRINS
Rainy Pass
LODGE

A L A S K A

P.O. Box 221267
907-230-6093 cell

Anchorage, AK 99522
907-770-6304 lodge

April 11, 2020

State of Alaska Board of Game

Re: 2020 Spring bear closures due to Covid-19

I appreciate the safety concerns and the action that our Governor did by closing the 2020 spring Bear season to non-resident hunters. In an effort to mitigate the losses financially as well as the loss of opportunity, I would like to make some suggestions. I have guided on Kodiak Island since 1981 and also own and operate Rainy Pass Lodge in the Alaska range. All of us in business understand stuff happens and we need to be creative to keep moving forward. I don't believe the government owes us any guarantees, however in these trying times it would help the entire Alaska economy to help make this incident lessen the pain for all involved.

I would like to mainly address the Kodiak hunters. As these are drawing hunts and clients have already been awarded a permit and now those have been cancelled by the state, It would not be right to take that away. So I recommend they are allowed a hunt permit credit to be used at a later time. One option is to just move them to next spring. Another option would be to let them pick a hunt period between this fall, next spring or the following fall. It is unlikely that they would all pick the same time frame, and that in itself will help with overcrowding. Of course they also would have to make that arrangement with their guide, and that also would help with overcrowding. In that case fish & game could continue with the normal draws of the following December period. I don't see any negative cause to the conservation issue, as we will not be taking the non-resident bears normally taken this spring. This option also reinstates many of the losses to the guides and the Kodiak economy (charter companies and hotels and grocery stores etc). Most guides can spread the 3-5 clients from this spring over the next



three seasons(fall 2020, spring 2021 and fall 2021) without interrupting the clients they already have booked next spring. If the guides choose not to add these clients on top of the normal number they take spread over that period, they can choose to move next springs hunters a year out, but in the end they can make that decision. As business owners we won't go under with the loss of one spring season, however that loss spreads to other businesses multi-fold.

If the state just moves the spring permit winners to Spring 2021 then those already booked for 2021 are penalized as well, with no option from the guide. This is much more likely to cause cancelled hunts and additional losses. Some of the 2020 permit winners may not be able to come in spring 2021, so to have a choice to work out with the guide is the best solution.

As for the state to keep track, this should not be difficult or cumbersome. You could issue each 2020 spring permit winners a designated ID number that corresponds to the permit area they were drawn and it would expire by December 2021. When it is used it is checked off the list. We are only talking about a small number of permit holders to track and allow into the field above the normal. Please consider this option and allow the guide businesses to take some responsibility as each area varies, and they can work it out with the least amount of negative impact to their businesses.

In the end the state of Alaska doesn't owe the guides or the businesses that make money from the tourism that the guides bring anything. However we all appreciate the possibility that you may make a decision that helps out those folks as well. I do personally believe that the state does owe it to all permit hunters everywhere in the state the ability to move their hunt opportunity to another time frame without penalty or the need to re-enter another drawing.

As for the resident hunters, many will not go to Kodiak due to the safety aspect and the travel bans. I have been told that about 25% of the resident permit holders live in Kodiak and will most likely hunt. A fair and equitable way to solve the resident hunter permit situation on Kodiak may be to allow any resident hunter that does not "pull his permit" (sign in to hunt), can have his/her permit moved to another hunt in the future similar to the suggestion for non-resident hunters above. This is actually more fair to the resident hunter than the non-resident hunter, because, I believe a much higher percentage of resident permit winners never go hunting anyway, for a variety of reasons. A non-resident hunter has much more money and skin in the game, so they almost always go.

As for other units, I don't have any skin in that game, and feel that those guides that do should weigh in with suggestions that will work.

** A point to ponder:

In unit 16B many years ago the wolf population depleted the ungulate populations to such low numbers that Fish & game closed moose hunting to residents and non-residents for many years. Many guides lost a lot of their annual incomes due to this decision. Rainy Pass Lodge (and many other guides) counted on these moose hunts as a large part of their income to pay bills. However as business owners, they had to make adjustments until the season re-opened. That of course was for a conservation issue, which this is not. Today we have a surplus of moose in unit 16B and better moose hunting for a long time to come. The businesses adjusted and are better off because of it. When this covid 19 pandemic passes we will all come back stronger and life will go on.

Thank-You for your time and efforts and stay smart and safe. Make time for family and love ones count. Work on what's important.

Sincerely,

Steven H. Perrins

Master Guide #123

The Perrins' Rainy Pass Lodge LLC



transfer of spring drawing permits for brown bear in gmu 4,8,10,14c,22 & 26b

Dan Peterson <ddpeterson7070@gmail.com>

Sun 4/12/2020 8:18 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Commission members: thank you for the opportunity of giving public comment on the transfer of hunting dates as a result of the COVID virus.

It seems most logical that all people who have already successfully drawn permits, both for the spring 2020 and spring 2021 seasons, should equally share in the additional length of time until their hunt opportunity commences. This of course would allow the original 2020 season permit holders to hunt the spring of 2021 and the original 2021 holders to hunt the spring of 2022.

To require 2020 permit holders to wait a total of 3 1/2 years between their draw and their hunt would seem to be an excessive length of time. This could well become even a hunt ending issue for the oldest of the successful permit holders.

Thank you for taking your valuable time for this special meeting and for taking my comments into consideration.

Sincerely,

Daniel Peterson

Public comment

Nathan Peterson <petersonsalaskanguides@gmail.com>

Fri 4/10/2020 8:25 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Thank you for calling an emergency meeting and putting in the extra work to ensure hunters and wildlife get taken care of.

I would like to see the Drawing Bear season from this year moved to 2021 and 2021's recipients moved to 2022. This seems more fair than making 2020's recipients wait a total of 3.5 years to hunt.

I also agree and moving unit 9 spring 2020 season to spring 2021.

Thank you

Sent from my iPad

BOG proposal; Spring/'20 non-resident hunting season

Afognak Wilderness Lodge <shannon@afognaklodge.com>

Fri 4/10/2020 4:06 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Cc: 19074656094@efaxsend.com <19074656094@efaxsend.com>

Hello Alaska Board of Game,

During President Trump's news conference today, he stated that he's aiming to re-open the nation's economy & travel by May 1st, due to dramatic decline of virus infections, but will first get together with his appropriate top experts next Tuesday, April 14, to see if it's feasible. We should know shortly thereafter.

Because there's also your April 14 tele-conference to review proposals concerning Alaska's registered guides' Spring/'20 hunts, we want to emphasize our earlier proposal to **re-open non-resident bear hunts beginning May 1st, of this year.** This would eliminate &/or reduce many future problems related to re-scheduling & stacking-up of hunters during our short seasons. Very practical.

If the NATION can safely re-open on May 1, 2020, certainly you can do your part to help the Alaska hunting community re-open on the same date since Alaska has negligible infections, which have been quarantined. We look for you to likewise make a BENEFICIAL decision that will be as bold & positive as President Trump's, within a few days after your meeting.

Most of our Spring/'20 non-resident hunters are still eager & prepared to come this Spring. They also know that Zinc & Vitamin C makes them immune to viruses.

Talking about success, it was just announced this morning that a HUGE new oil deposit was discovered beside Alaska's North Slope, where the pipeline already exists, so that'll give us energy independence for several more decades. A wonderful well-timed blessing, from above, to help this nation recover from this virus-chapter.

If our Creator found our nation worthy of this blessing, you shouldn't find it difficult to follow His lead, shortly after your April 14 meeting. You have the authority to undo your previous ruling, for the sake of the Alaska hunting community and all those we enthusiastically serve.

Kind regards,

Josh & Shannon Randall,

Afognak Wilderness Lodge,

P.O. Box SYB, Seal Bay,

Kodiak, Alaska 99697

www.afognaklodge.com & www.huntafognak.com

Office: 360-799-3250; Cell: 907-539-6279



Consideration for a 2021 GMU9 spring bear season.

Phil Reddock <piloncilloranch@gmail.com>

Thu 4/9/2020 9:06 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To all concerned, thank you for taking my comments concerning the spring bear season postponed until spring 2021. I will keep my comments short. First let me say I do understand why Alaska decided to close the bear season for non resident hunters. I think the state was looking out for the welfare of the residents as to the virus being brought in to the state by out of state hunters, I get it and agree! It is my hope and request that the state will use the same compassionate thinking concerning their non resident hunters. Speaking for myself, I am not a rich doctor just looking to check a box in my hunting goals. I am a working class stiff that has had to save years to be able to go on a hunt like this. I saved for years to get the privilege to come to Alaska for moose in 2008. Since that time I have been saving some every year to realize my dream of harvesting a Brown Bear. I am now 64 and worried my dream might slip away. I do have a Guide/Client contract paid in full for \$24,000.00 and my brown bear tag and hunting license at @ 1150.00 not to mention the travel cost. Be assured as important as the cost of this adventure is to me, this is bigger than me. I know many of your outfitters are suffering because of this and I am also worried about them. With that said it is my request to please allow for a spring season in Unit 9 in 2021 so not only that I can realize my long awaited and worked for dream but also for the outfitters and businesses that have suffered from this can have some type of help for the future. Thank you for your consideration! Thank you for allowing me to visit and enjoy the most beautiful state in our nation. Regards Phil Reddock Texas.

2021 Spring Brown Bear resident and nonresident in GMU 9

Matt <mattstephenreed@hotmail.com>

Sun 4/12/2020 9:30 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

Many residents and non residents of Alaska consider the Alaska Peninsula Brown Bear to be the Pinnacle hunting experience of their lifetime. I am one that believes this as well. Over 15 years of saving hard earned money and booking a 2020 hunt over 4 years ago was a once in a lifetime opportunity for myself and others. The Covid-19 nightmare has wreaked havoc all across our nation and especially in the wildlife and hunting industry. I understand both sides of the situation as a hunter/customer and as an outfitter because I have a whitetail outfitting business in Ohio. As a conservationist, I would never make a selfish decision that would have an adverse impact on the population of wildlife. I've tried to come up with negatives of allowing a 2021 Spring Brown Bear season in GMU 9 and I can't think of any. There are many positives to allowing a 2021 Brown Bear season in GMU 9 though:

1. The state of Alaska won't lose out financially on the 2020 Spring Brown Bear season being cancelled if it's made up in 2021.
2. Outfitters/Pilots/Lodging won't lose out totally financially from the lost business if they can roll the hunts to 2021 and still keep their currently booked hunts for 2022.
3. By allowing a Spring 2021 hunting season it won't create a ripple effect for many seasons to follow by crippling the outfitters trying to reschedule years later when clients have already paid in full for 2020.
4. Hunting is a huge part of Alaska's economy. By not allowing the season you would be further hurting all of those involved that create income from the Spring Brown Bear season.
5. From Spring of 2020 to Spring of 2022 there would've been 3 Brown Bear Seasons. There will still only be 3 seasons if you allow a 2021 Spring season.
6. From a conservation standpoint, the same amount of bears will be taken whether it took place in 2020 or 2021 during the Spring. It won't have an adverse impact on the population by allowing a 2021 Spring season.

I hope you consider allowing a 2021 Spring Brown Bear season because the positives far outweigh the negatives.

Thank you for your time,

Matt Reed
Zanesville, Ohio 43701
740-487-5055

Sent from my iPhone



unapologetically FOR ALASKAN RESIDENTS

PO Box 60095, Fairbanks, Alaska 99706 (907) 371-7436
email info@residenthuntersofalaska.org web www.residenthuntersofalaska.org

April 12, 2020

Comments to Alaska Board of Game

Special Teleconference Meeting – April 14, 2020

The purpose of the special meeting is to develop board generated proposals on the following topics to be scheduled for board action at a subsequent, special meeting.

1.) *Open a spring 2021, resident and nonresident brown bear hunting season in Game Management Unit (GMU) 9 under 5 AAC 85.020;*

2.) *Modify 5 AAC 92.050(6) to allow the transfer of 2020 spring season drawing permits to a future year for hunting black bear in GMUs 1-3, and brown and grizzly bear in GMUs 4, 8, 10, 14C, 22, and 26B.*

Regarding #1, above, Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK) wants to stress that all current 2020 resident spring bear hunts – including Unit 9 – remain open, regardless of a Board-generated proposal to hold a special spring 2021 brown bear hunt in Unit 9. We would also like to recommend that due to the coronavirus contagion we believe all spring bear sealing requirements for residents be waived, postponed, or done via mail to the best of our ability. The state has already done that for fur sealing. Many biologists are rightly concerned about interacting with hunters and vice-versa. We'd like to see the Board make such a recommendation to the Governor, ADF&G Commissioner and Director of DWC. This could also free up some of the masks and gloves and testing equipment that the Department has in stock, if needed by our medical clinics and hospitals.

There have been conservation concerns for the Unit 9 brown bear population and seasons were shortened at the last Region IV meeting. Opening up a special one-time-only spring 2021 brown bear season in Unit 9 would depend on Department recommendations and analysis. If such a hunt is allowed, it shall include both resident and nonresident participation.

Re #2, above, the transfer and reissuing of black and brown bear draw permits to a "future year" to those who won a permit but were not able to hunt due to the coronavirus and travel mandates is problematic on many levels.

Current regulations don't allow a Kodiak draw permit winner from this spring to apply the following spring, and we aren't sure how that may interfere with reissuance of permits.



On Kodiak, as RHAK has shown, nonresidents don't actually have to go through the draw permit process. We are not sure how many zeroed out draw permit applications there were for this spring's nonresident guided hunt, that actually would have been hunted via an OTC tag. You can't reissue a permit that was never applied for through the draw process.

Unlike nonresident hunters, resident hunters must go through the draw permit process, and many have put in for 30 plus years for a chance to draw a Kodiak tag. And now the coronavirus and travel mandates prevent them from utilizing that tag this spring.

Just how would the reissuing of permits work? Does any transfer and reissuing mean we completely forego next spring's draw permit application process? Only this spring's winners who were not able to participate will be able to hunt next spring? What about the permit winners for this spring not being able to go next spring for whatever reason? It's going to be up to the Board and Department to navigate a way to fairly and legally reissue draw permits.

And also of importance, what may be the result of not taking some 80 bears this spring, most of which would have been males? Kodiak had one of the worst winters in a long time with heavy snows, likely a lot of deer die-offs, possible lower overwinter bear survival and recruitment, but with more big boars around because they were not hunted this spring, how may that affect cub survival?

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

Mark Richards

Executive Director Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK)
(907) 371-7436

Kodiak Spring Bear 2020

Randy Rexwinkle <randyrex907@gmail.com>

Sat 4/11/2020 10:10 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Alaska Board of Game,

Shifting the spring Kodiak Bear season to 2021 is the only responsible thing to do in light of the current events. The island of Kodiak has so far been spared and no cases are reported on the island. We owe it to them to help keep it that way. For the hunting community to think we are so privileged to call our activity "essential" and invade their community for 4-6 weeks just to harvest a Brown Bear is wrong.

All communities currently have a quarantine order in place for all non-locals. This requires isolation from the local population for 14 days before venturing out into the community. Alaska also has a travel mandate by the Governor that restricts all in state travel for non-essential people. Traveling to the island might be accomplished on a commercial airline and adhere to the social distancing requirements but travel in a small plane from the town to the hunting camp cannot meet the 6' separation of people.

The people of Kodiak have requested restrictions on their airport and have issued travel advisories for their small boat harbor to help keep their island safe and free of the Covid-19 virus. We owe it to them to respect their wishes in this time of unusual circumstances by not invading their community. I will not be traveling to the island this spring to hunt my bear tag and hope this board acts responsibly and closes this area down by shifting the seasons.

Thank you.

Randy L. Rexwinkle

907-441-0818

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Unit 8 Non-Resident Bear Permits

Dick Rohrer <rrohrer@ak.net>

Sun 4/12/2020 8:14 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Kristy Tibbles, Executive Director
Alaska Board of Game

A. BOG members,

My name is Dick Rohrer, I'm a 52 year resident of Kodiak Island and have been a licensed Master Guide operating in Unit 8 since the mid 1970's. Thank you for taking the time to address the unusual situation we are facing during these uncertain times. My suggestions are specific to the **Non-Resident** hunters that were fortunate to draw Bear Permits in Unit 8 for the Spring 2020 season and now find themselves unable to make the trip of a lifetime due to the recent season closure.

#1. Please consider allowing the successful non-residents that drew permits for the spring 2020 season to use the same permit for the spring 2021 season. All permit conditions will remain the same as currently administered.

This change will not have a significant impact on the Bear population even though there may be a few more cubs killed by Mature males that would have been harvested if the Spring season had executed as originally scheduled. If under harvest is of concern to the Department and/or the Board, I support the APHA recommendation to permit the Kodiak F&G staff to add a few Bear permits over the next three years as the Area Biologist deems appropriate.

Due to the nature of the season closure my clients who purchased trip insurance are being informed that they will not be reimbursed by the Insurance Companies for any potential forfeiture of Deposit money. However my clients that drew permits for spring 2020 are willing to have their deposit transferred to the 2021 season. This will lessen the financial burden of returning deposit money.

I have clients that are booked for spring 2021 that will be disappointed that they will be required to wait another year to apply but they are all understanding and waiting for the BOG to make a final decision so they can plan for the future.

#2. If the Board decides no action should be taken to accommodate the current permit holders loss of opportunity, then my recommendation is to **wave** the "every other year" limitation on holding permits for a given permit hunt so that non-residents that drew tags for Spring 2020 will be able to apply for the same hunt for spring 2021.

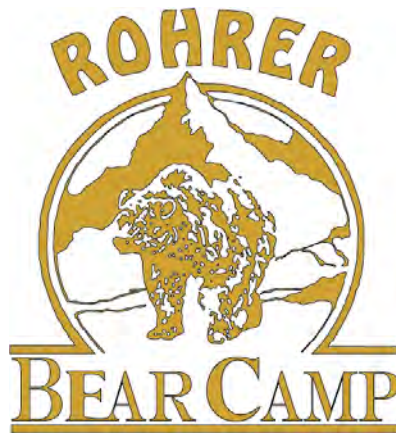
Thank you for considering these two suggestions,

Dick Rohrer MG69
Kodiak Ak.



MASTER GUIDE

Sam Rohrer
P.O. Box 1388
Kodiak, Alaska 99615
Ph: 1-907-486-4074
Cell: 1-907-539-1828
sam@kodiakbearcamp.com



Brown Bear
Mountain Goat
Sitka Blacktail Deer
Wildlife Viewing
Sport Fishing

April 13, 2020

Chairman Spraker,

Thank you for holding a special meeting to develop a Board generated proposal to address loss of hunting opportunities due to the Covid-19 crisis.

Unit 8 Non-Resident. I strongly recommend that 2020 Spring Non-Resident permit holders are rolled forward to 2021 Spring, and that the normal 2021 Spring Non-Resident drawing is cancelled. I also recommend that all other permit conditions remain in place.

Unit 8 Resident. I recommend that 2020 Spring Resident permit holders, who do not pick up their bear permits, are rolled forward to 2022. Then a modified 2022 Spring Resident drawing can be held, in which only the number of permits that have been picked up for this current spring (2020) are redrawn for 2022. This will allow all permit holders to use their tags either this spring or in 2022.

Unit 8 Lost Opportunity. I recommend that Unit 8 ADF&G staff work with the local Fish and Game Advisory Council to develop proposals that might allow some of the lost 2020 Spring opportunity to be recaptured in subsequent springs, through the addition of a few extra resident and nonresident tags were appropriate. These tags could be made available during the 2021, 2022, and 2023 drawing periods.

Thank for considering my comments.

Sincerely,

Sam Rohrer

SCI Alaska Chapter
P.O. Box 770511 Eagle River, Ak 99577
Email: admin@aksafariclub.org
Office: (907) 980-9018
Website: <https://aksafariclub.org/>



Subject: Alaska Board Of Game April 14th, 2020 Special Meeting Bear Hunting Proposal

BOG,

SCI Alaska Chapter would like to offer the following proposal and recommendations to close and move Alaska brown bear registration and drawing hunts to a future date.

We have been working directly with the ADF&G, offering our comments throughout the COVID-19 mandate and we are concerned with the impact and risk associated with the current bear season regulations. We have actively provided feedback and recommendations in support of our membership, with the goal of creating hunting opportunities without impacting personal safety or potentially increasing the risk of further spreading the COVID-19 virus within our communities. We would like to take this opportunity to offer the following observations and recommendations in support of our proposal to change regulation.

Observations:

1. The Alaska Peninsula registration hunt which currently is closed to non-resident hunters and open to resident hunters has several problems which are concerning to our membership. The resident opening if conducted legally, only creates a hunting opportunity for a small number of hunters who can travel to the area within the current travel mandates.
2. The Alaska Peninsula closure for non-residents will be a huge economic impact to the State Of Alaska and create hardship for our members that work in the guiding/tourist industry. SCIAK fully supports the travel mandates and we would like to recommend an alternative solution that would offer a course of action that would minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19, provide future economic recovery and create an equal hunting opportunity in an alternative season.
3. The Kodiak Island Brown Bear drawing permits are the worlds most coveted brown bear hunting permits and most of the individuals that have drawn these permits have put in for the draw for many years, prior to drawing a permit. Without a change in the current travel mandate, it would be virtually impossible for a most successful drawing permit holders to travel to their hunting area without breaking the law.
4. The Kodiak Island Resident drawing permit opening is creating a lot of confusion and introducing the risk of spreading the virus. Some permit holders are searching for work arounds, that would allow them to reach their permit area, while those that are clearly obeying the mandates are extremely disappointed with the thought of eating a tag that



they have spent many years trying to draw. SCIAK Chapter does not support the work arounds, nor are we in favor of lifting the travel restrictions.

5. The Kodiak Island non-resident drawing hunt closure will be an economic impact to the State Of Alaska and create hardship for many of our members who work in the guiding/tourist industry. We recognize that the Kodiak non-resident spring drawing hunt is an annual draw and this solution will only minimize the burden of providing refunds for hunt deposits and license. SCIAK fully supports the travel mandates and we would like to recommend an alternative solution that would offer a course of action that would minimize the risk of spreading COVID-19, provide some economic relief and create a fair hunting opportunity in an alternative season.

With these observations in mind, SCI Alaska Chapter believes that it would be unfair to close the Kodiak Island drawing hunts and the Alaska Peninsula registration hunts, without offering an alternative solution. SCIAK Chapter would like to offer the following recommendations for your review and consideration.

1. **Kodiak Resident Draw:** Close the drawing hunt, honor and move the 2020 drawing tags to 2021, move 2021 tags to 2022. Do not hold a draw for the Kodiak Island Resident 2022 Spring season.
2. **Kodiak Non-Resident Draw:** Honor and move the 2020 drawing tags to 2021, Do not hold a draw for the Kodiak Island Non-Resident 2021 Spring season.
3. **Kodiak Road System Registration:** We would propose that a reasonable course of action would be to allow the road system registration hunts to remain open to hunting for those that can hunt within the guidelines of the current travel mandates.
4. **Alaska Peninsula:** We would propose that a reasonable course of action would be to allow the road system registration hunts to remain open to hunting for those that can hunt within the guidelines of the current travel mandates.
5. **Alaska Peninsula:** Close the registration hunt for both residents and nonresidents for the 2020 Spring Registration hunt (non-road system hunts) and hold a 2021 Spring Registration hunt in accordance with the normal season regulations. This recommendation would provide a solution for all user groups without any additional impact to the resource.

SCI Alaska Chapter believes that this course of action would be the most effective way to minimize the economic impact of the closures, allow current drawing and registration permit holders the opportunity to hunt, ensure the safety of our members and most importantly minimize the risk of spreading the COVID-19 virus into our communities.

SCI Alaska Chapter also supports the normal bear season openings for the remainder of the State. It is our stance that hunters should be allowed to hunt, providing the hunt can be conducted within the guidelines of the travel mandates. Although, we would ask to Board Of Game to consider an alternative sealing method. This is the only area we see, where there is a risk of performing activities that are outside of the current travel mandates.



It is our belief that any further closure announcements, should include a solution and it is our intent to offer this as a fair solution and course of action.

SCI Alaska Chapter would like to thank the ADF&G for their hard work in managing this pandemic and we are proud of the way our great State Of Alaska's Leadership has conducted themselves throughout this response.

Thank You For Considering,

Louis A. Cusack

Executive Director **SCI Alaska Chapter**

P.O. Box 770511 Eagle River, Ak 99577

Email: louis.cusack@outlook.com

Office: (907) 980-9018 Cell: (907) 903-8329

April 14, 2020 meeting comment

Rod Schuh - Hoodoo Fishing <fishon@hoodoofishing.com>

Sun 4/12/2020 6:57 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Board of Game,

In addition to the consideration of opening the spring season in Unit 9 in 2021 to accommodate the hunters that were affected by the Covid 19 virus pandemic, I would like the board to consider making the spring 2020 Unimak draw permits utilize during the spring 2021 season in addition to the 2021 permit winners. Considering the limited impact (14 permits total), length of the season (May 10-31), and ample hunting locations on Unimak Island, I feel this would be a reasonable solution for allowing the permits to be utilized.

Please keep in mind that historically a considerable number of the permits for Unimak Island go unused. This being said: the total amount of hunters during the 21 day season would be less than 14.

Many of the successful applicants both resident and nonresident have applied and supported the permit process for many years. It would be unfortunate for them to lose the opportunity after their dedication to the process.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rod Schuh

Registered Guide #829

R&R Alaska Peninsula Guide Service

10000 Cobra St.

Anchorage, AK 99507

Off. 907-346-3983

Cell. 907-244-6146

Special BOG meeting Unit 9

Taj Shoemaker <pacificnorthhunters@outlook.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 10:33 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To Whom it May Concern;

As a Registered Hunting Guide, Outfitter in Unit 9, small business owner, and lifelong Alaskan, I would like to show my support for making a special one-time non-resident Spring Bear hunting season in May 2021 for those clients of myself and others who were not able to come up this season due to the closure of this year's bear season to non-residents.

I understand there may be biological concerns over having an additional season. However, those non-residents were already planning on coming up and hunting, so there would not be an additional take if it were open only to non-residents.

Alternatively, if it is impossible to open a non-resident only season, I propose making a one-time 'Bear Every 6 Years' spulation to help defer overharvest. This would not discourage most non-residents whom this is a once-in-a-lifetime hunt, but would help reduce take from residents who hunt every 4 years. I would also like to point out that under the current 'bear every four years' regulation, any resident hunters that take bears this year would be ineligible for a spring 2021 season, further helping to discourage overharvest.

The lack of Spring Bear season this year has made a financial hardship on myself, my family, and many others in the industry. If we cannot offer these clients an alternative option, it will be financially ruinous. We cannot simply put them off to the next bear season as that season is already booked, plus we would lose an entire year's worth of bear hunters.

Taj Shoemaker
Grizzly Skins of Alaska
Kodiak, Alaska
(907)-385-7213
www.grizzlyskinsofalaska.com

Special BOG Meeting Unit 9 Bear Season

Tia Shoemaker <tia.shoemaker@gmail.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 11:17 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To Whom it May Concern;

As a Registered Hunting Guide in Unit 9, small business owner, and lifelong Alaskan, I would like to show my support for making a special one-time non-resident Spring Bear hunting season in May 2021 for those clients of myself and others who were not able to come up this season due to the closure of this years bear season to non-residents.

I understand there may be biological concerns over having an additional season. However, those non-residents were already planning on coming up and hunting, so there would not be an additional take if it were open only to non-residents.

Alternatively, if it is impossible to open a non-resident only season, I propose making a one-time 'Bear Every 6 Years' stipulation to help defer overharvest. This would not discourage most non-residents whom this is a once-in-a-lifetime hunt, but would help reduce take from residents who hunt every 4 years. I would also like to point out that under the current 'bear every four years' regulation, any resident hunters that take bears this year would be ineligible for a spring 2021 season, further helping to discourage overharvest.

The lack of Spring Bear season this year has made a financial hardship on myself, my family, and many others in the industry. If we cannot offer these clients an alternative option, it will be financially ruinous. We cannot simply put them off to the next bear season as that season is already booked, plus we would lose an entire year's worth of bear hunters.

Tia Shoemaker
Grizzly Skins of Alaska
grizzlyskinsofalaska.com
907-599-0842

My comments for the board

Jeff Smith <jgsmith75@gmail.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 10:08 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Hello,

I write to you without a "dog in the fight" but I can easily imagine being in some of these permit holders position.

I don't think reissuing or extending them all is feasible. On the other hand I do feel, at a minimum, draw permits that are either lifetime or once every ten years need to be addressed and accommodations made for the holder. Some have put years and thousands of dollars into giving them the best chance at successfully providing for their families.

Thank you for your consideration and time.
You have some tough choices to make.

Jeff Smith
2345 Ka see an dr
Juneau, AK 99801

Public Comment

Justin Smith <jarts84@gmail.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 11:02 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Dear Board of Game,

My name is Justin Smith, and I am a local Fairbanks resident and hunter. During your Special Board of Game meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2020, I urge you to consider adding a discussion of the once in a lifetime Farewell Bison Hunt to your meeting. In that discussion, please consider the hunters that lost their opportunity to hunt due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

A brief story to support my request:

My buddy Cole Wilburn drew the Farewell Bison hunt for 2020. Cole went to great expense for this hunt. To list his few of his efforts, he (1) purchased 2 snowmachines and flew them to McGrath; (2) was prepared to give up over 10 days of income from his commercial fishing business; (3) was preparing to leave his wife and two pre-school aged children for this trip; (4) offered to purchase my food and plane ticket; and (5) tirelessly scheduled this hunt to make it as safe and productive as possible. Cole picked the last week of March and was targeting that week for over year. Then, the world encountered a pandemic.

At the beginning of March, Alaska was aware of the looming threat of this virus, but not so much so that the Army allowed me to travel to a nationally sponsored conference. I flew home on March 14th and we began finalizing the plans for our trip, with tickets purchased months in advance. We were scheduled to fly to McGrath on March 20th. A few days before the departure date, things started to look a bit more grim. California and Washington began putting in stay at home measures, and I was in a grey zone because I had recently traveled out of state through a few "hot zones".

Obviously, Cole and I made the decision to cancel the trip because frankly, it would have been very irresponsible and potentially criminal. Clearly, we made the right decision. On Tuesday, March 24th, I became ill and was tested for COVID-19. We would have been in the field hunting, and I would have put Cole, myself, and a remote village in serious risk. Later that week, Ravin Air stopped making flight to McGrath, Alaska Airlines made its flight restrictions, and Canada shut its borders. Cole and I would have been required to remain in McGrath and Cole would have not made it home to his wife and small children. We certainly don't regret our decision to forfeit the hunt this year, but I am concerned that Cole will miss out on this once in a lifetime opportunity.

Please, allow Cole, and others who missed the hunt, to try again in future years to hunt the Farewell Bison herd. If you don't, you would be punishing a responsible person, who made a responsible decision, simply because it didn't get discussed in your meeting.

Thank you for your time,

Justin Smith

852 Remnant Ct.

Fairbanks, AK 99709

Military non resident bear hunting

Cody Snowbarger <csnowba@yahoo.com>

Sun 4/12/2020 7:15 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To whom this may concern,

I would like to address the issue of military non residents not being able to hunt the spring bear season. I think this decision is unfair to us military members who are stationed here and haven't been here for 12 months. I have attempted to address my concerns with the ADF&G with no success. The reason for canceling bears for non residents was to prevent people from traveling to alaska and spreading Covid-19. However these actions have a negative impact on your military members who already live here. These members will not be traveling from out of state they are already living in alaska and have the orders to prove this. Military non residents will pose no more risk of spreading the Covid-19, then Alaska resident bear hunters and we are willing to abide by the same rules set out for them. In fact it is safer for us to be in the woods, then in our own local communities. Please consider allowing military non residents that live in Alaska to hunt spring bear.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Re-issue bear tags

Dusty Spencer <dusty252527@gmail.com>

Wed 4/8/2020 9:46 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Good evening I am a Resident and a current holder of a Kiluda Bay Kodiak brown bear draw tag that I have been planning for over a year. I was deeply saddened to hear that I would not be able to make this hunt due to the Covid-19 outbreak, though I completely understand the reasoning behind it. I Drew the tag while I was deployed to Baghdad Iraq as an Active Alaska Air National Guard member, it literally helped me through that 7 month deployment by giving me something to look forward to and plan. I would greatly love to have the opportunity to be able to have this tag re-issued as a ton of others would also because at least for me this is most likely a one time event in my life. Thank you for taking the time to read my concern and I truly hope you give all the tag holders a chance to finish what we've been planning.. Sincerely

SMSgt Dusty Spencer

2020 Spring Bear Permits

Jason Stafford <wyomingbowman@yahoo.com>

Thu 4/9/2020 6:54 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To whom it may concern,

I would like to thank you for the consideration of permitting the 2020 Prince of Wales spring bear permit holders the opportunity to use their permit in a future year. It took several years of unsuccessful applications to finally draw the permit and I certainly do not want to lose my chance to go on this hunt. Please allow me to use my permit in 2021.

On another note when I received notice that the spring black bear season was closed to non-residents, I began emailing department personnel trying to get a few questions I had answered. I received a response from [REDACTED] and she has gone above and beyond to ensure that she has kept me informed of upcoming meetings. She is providing remarkable customer service and is truly an asset to your agency. She should be commended for her efforts.

Respectfully,

Jason Stafford
901 23rd Street
Cody, WY 82414
(307) 250-0994

Nonresident Spring Bear Hunting

Mark Stockhausen <stockhausencontractingllc@gmail.com>

Sun 4/12/2020 8:51 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

April 12, 2020

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

I established my residency in the Copper River Basin as of July 2019. When we purchased our home and my wife took a full time position with Copper River Native Association. We have continued our residency in Alaska since we have arrived. Enrolled our children in the Glennallen School District. Obtained our Alaska Driver's License and Registered to become State of Alaska voters.

As a new hunter to the area looking for a reasonably priced hunt to help provide food on the table for my family I purchased a Fall 2019 Black Bear tag with the intent to use it in the Spring of 2020 if I was unsuccessful with my hunt (Which I did not fill successfully and was intending to use this Spring of 2020.)

Therefore, I am asking you to consider allowing hunters who moved to Alaska in 2019 and have taken steps to become established residents to utilize their nonresident black bear tag purchased in Fall of 2019 for the Spring of 2020, if they were unsuccessful in filling their tag. As I will not be traveling from out of state to utilize my tag I purchased.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mark Stockhausen
1 Mile Brenwick Craig East
(PO Box 94)
Copper Center, AK 99573

Unit 9 brown bear hunt

Steven Stone <bassorbuc@gmail.com>

Wed 4/8/2020 4:30 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

I was scheduled to hunt this spring with Mike Odin in unit 9 on the Alaska Peninsula. This is a trip of a lifetime fo me to travel from the State of Virginia to hunt in Alaska. I feel strongly that the hunt should should be rescheduled in 2021. The fact that no hunt is currently scheduled in the area for that year should make this an obvious choice.

Please consider the value thr out of state hunters bring to Alaska.

Thank you,

Steve Stone Roanoke VA



Ovis Outfitters
PO Box 873364
Wasilla, AK 99687
(907) 676-0421
ovisoutfitters@hotmail.com

Alaska Board of Game
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526
(907) 465-4110

Dear Members of the Board:

On behalf of the owners of Ovis Outfitters, our clients, and the assistant guides that work with us, we support opening a spring 2021 brown bear hunting season in Game Management Unit (GMU) 9. We feel that it is in the best interest of the nonresident clients that were affected by the 2020 closure, the assistant guides that rely on the guiding work, and the communities that benefit financially from brown bear hunting in GMU 9. We do not feel that there would be any negative affects on the resource by allowing for the openings of a 2021 spring brown bear season in GMU 9.

We have been in constant, thorough communication with the clients we had booked for spring brown bear hunts in GMU 9 for the 2020 season. Although slightly disappointed, all were very understanding and agreed that the closure was for the best interest of the State of Alaska and its residents. None of these hunters wanted refunded as they are extremely excited about the hunting opportunity they have financially committed to. When given the possible scenario of hunting spring of 2021, they were all very excited for this opportunity and would make themselves available for it.

Assistant guides rely heavily on guiding work for income as their lifestyle often makes it difficult to have much of an alternative when it comes to income in the 'off season'. We would appreciate the opportunity to get these assistant guides back to work and making money as soon as possible.


Many small communities in Unit 9 benefit greatly from the brown bear hunting industry. Lodging and restaurants, local air taxis, vehicle rental companies, coffee shops, etc benefit from the outfitters and their clients operating in the community.

We do not feel that a spring 2021 season would have a negative impact on the resource. To ensure there is not negative impact on the resource, we propose that outfitters should have to prove that a client was already booked for the 2020 season to be able to hunt the spring 2021 season.

If there is no deleterious affects on the resource, we believe we owe it to our very lucrative tourist industry to provide them the opportunity to come recreate as soon as it is safe and possible to do so.

Sincerely,


Matt Thoft
Registered Guide 1287


Emily Thoft
Registered Guide 1345

Spring bear tag reissue

Mike Warner <goochwarner@hotmail.com>

Sat 4/11/2020 10:48 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Hello Board of Game members,

During these unprecedented times we have all had to make tough decisions, I'm sure the closing of bear season was a tough one. I appreciate you taking the time to read comments and I'd like to take a minute to give you my thoughts and ideas for a smooth and equitable reallocation of tags to help hunters as well as businesses.

My name is Mike Warner and I own Coffman Cove Adventures, a small mom and pop fishing camp on Prince of Wales Island. For the last 13 years, we have emerged as a favorite for residents and nonresidents alike who hunt POW. We serve as a base camp and to get a shower when needed. These folks are the first infusion of much needed capital for the community each year. The local store, gas station, bar, liquor store, and taxidermist all rely on these visitors to get the season started. Not to mention the travel companies who get them out here and others I may have missed.

Here are my thoughts on how to make whole the hunters who have been impacted by Covid-19. From a business standpoint, it's obviously revenue that will never be recovered but I truly feel for these folks that have drawn this hard to draw tag and cannot come hunt.

***** Reissue all bear tags for unit 1-3 for the Spring Hunt of 2022

-you could either do a blanket reissue OR contact all who drew to see if they would like to try again. If there are folks who wish to pass on their tag make the tags available for the 21-22 draw. I think the blanket reissue is probably the best bet and easiest to do.

From someone who is on the front lines of this, I have done most of the legwork on 20%+ for you. I had 23 of the hunters who drew tags for spring of 2020 and planning on staying with us. In order to return deposits, I contacted ALL affected people and the ALL would like to still come. In 2022. I can provide names as needed. Stay safe and healthy.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Warner
907-351-2978

Sent from my iPad

Spring bear suggestion

Carlton Weekes <carlton.travis.weekes@gmail.com>

Thu 4/9/2020 1:28 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

If i may give a suggestion it would be to roll over kodiak spring bear draw hunts for 2020 or draw hunts in area that would have broken the intrastate travel ban due to the covid19 pandemic that were suppose to begin April 1 to spring bear April 1 of 2021. Then for those that drew tags for next spring should have their tags rolled to 2022 with there being no draw tags for kodiak spring bear in this years drawing in November. Can also do the opposite where. Winners from this years draw still use their tags for spring 2021 and original 2020 spring bear winners have their tag tolled to spring 2022 again with no kodiak spring bear draw offerings in this upcoming draw application.

Sent from my iPhone

2020 Spring Brown Bear Kodiak Hunt

Ross Weller <rossweller@kldistributor.com>

Sun 4/12/2020 10:18 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Hello,

I have a 2020 Spring Brown Bear tag this season and live in Kodiak. I don't see any good reason why we can't leave an open for a local hunter in his own area to hunt this season. I don't need to travel by air or pass through any native village to get to my unit. I don't have a problem for rescheduling other permit holders who don't have the ability to travel to hunt this season, but I feel I should be able to hunt

Thank you,

Ross Weller

Spring 2020 Kodiak Bear Permits

zach werle <zwerle@gmail.com>

Fri 4/10/2020 3:18 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

April 10, 2020

To Whom It May Concern:

I would like to submit the comments below for the record, for Tuesday, April 14th's Board of Game meeting.

I am a physician, a hunter and an Alaska resident. We are in the midst of unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I work in the busiest urgent care in interior Alaska, which has been converted into a dedicated respiratory clinic for COVID-19 patients. There is not a single aspect of our lives that has not been affected by this pandemic. Unfortunately, this includes draw hunts for spring bear in Alaska, of which I am a permit holder (DB238).

I lobbied ADFG and Governor Dunleavy to close the spring bear hunts on Kodiak due to the potential untoward consequences of COVID-19 and intrastate or interstate travel to the island. His current mandate unfortunately puts permit holders for this spring in a unique position. Governor Dunleavy issued Mandate 012 March 28th, which states "all in-state travel, between communities, whether resident, worker or visitor, is prohibited unless travel is to support critical infrastructure; or for critical personal needs". Most of Kodiak Island's hunting areas are accessed by small plane, only after a commercial flight is taken to the island. Despite an open hunting season, many Alaska residents will be excluded from participating in a hunting opportunity that they drew, in the same manner as a non-resident hunter.

I do feel that there are answers, and ADFG has a system that is already in place. I would propose, just as the military members have the option to transfer their tags due to a deployment, we allow draw hunters with a spring 2020 bear tag to transfer their tags forward to 2022. If this spring's hunters who did not hunt are permitted to transfer their tags to the spring of 2022, it will not impact those lucky individuals who drew tags for 2021.

As I have mentioned before, these are unprecedented circumstances on all levels. I do feel that there are concessions that could be made, not only for the benefit of those hunters, but also for the health and safety of all Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Zach Werle DO
(907) 452-1614

Farewell Bison hunt March 2020

cole wilburn <cole_wilburn@hotmail.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 9:24 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

To whom it may concern,

My name is Cole Wilburn and I am resident of Juneau AK, commercial fisherman, owner of a Juneau based snow plow business, and I am scheduled to be elected into the transboundary panel on the Pacific Salmon Commission this year. I was fortunate enough last year to draw the Farewell Bison tag for March of 2020. As you can imagine I was extremely excited to be one of the select few to draw this tag. I knew there was going to be many obstacles to overcome to make this hunt happen and I have been working tirelessly since I drew the tag on getting all the logistics figured out. What I couldn't foresee is where our country and state would be by the middle of March 2020. I am requesting that you consider including a third item to Alaska Board of Game special meeting to consider the transfer of draw permits of the 2020 Farewell Bison hunt to a future year, and hopefully allow me to undertake this hunt in a future year.

Knowing how rare an opportunity the Farewell Bison hunt is, over a year in advance I scheduled the end of March for the hunt. Due to my work as a snow removal expert, my schedule restricted my availability to hunt the end of March. Once I set the date, the rest of the logistics came together. I spent an extreme amount of time and money to prepare for this hunt, purchasing snow machines and transporting them to McGrath, AK. My hunting partner and I had purchased plane tickets and our gear was ready to go.

As we all know, the last couple months have been crazy with the novel corona virus, COVID-19, and as we know the state of Alaska has taken extreme measures to reduce the. On March 27th Governor Dunleavy banned all non-essential travel within the state leaving small airlines like Ravn Air to close their doors for business, and so happened to be the company we were supposed to fly with in and out of McGrath. Also, all schools and restaurants and countless businesses have been shut down indefinitely. It would have been irresponsible to leave my business, and more importantly my wife alone with my children, with these events unfolding.

It was not reasonable or appropriate for my hunting partner, or myself, to travel to McGrath for this hunt this year. I was supposed to be flying to Anchorage on Thursday 3/19/2020 then flying to McGrath on Friday 3/20/20 to start my hunt. From all the literature that was available and is still available from the Center for Disease Control and the State of Alaska is asking people to stay home. I had no problem doing that but was and I am still terrified that I will lose this opportunity on a once in a lifetime tag and hunt. Not only were my concerns for the safety of the McGrath village and people I have listed, but I felt like I also have valid concern that by the time I returned from my hunt I would not be able to fly or drive to Juneau with how fast things had been progressing in the nation. As we now see my concerns were valid and real. My hunting partner got tested for COVID-19 virus on the 24th of March for Covid-19. That means that if we would have continued with the hunt, he would have been sick, potentially in a really bad spot being so remote, and possibly contaminated anyone along his path. Also, if I would have proceeded with my hunt I would have either been trapped in McGrath due to all flights in had been canceled or I would have had to quarantine for 14 days when I arrived home. I would have been leaving a one-year old son and a four year old daughter with my wife alone that I am the sole provider for. I am thankful that we made the decision to not go to McGrath, and do not regret my decision.

I wrote an original email that went to the commissioners, the directors, and multiple other employees at fish and game explaining everything that was going on. I received an email back from the Assistant



Director, [REDACTED], before the trip date and we talked at length about my options. I was heartened and validated by the department that they understood the decision and would do everything they can to give me another opportunity in the future. I was hoping you will let me reschedule this hunt for another year when there is no worldwide pandemic. I understand that the tags have been issued for 2021 hunt, but 2022 have not been drawn off yet. I would completely understand if I had to wait until then or even later. I just want another opportunity at this hunt. As the board knows this is a 10-year tag. I cannot put back in for this tag for 10 years. After that 10 years there is a very good chance that I will never draw it again.

I hope you read this and understand that I was never trying to back out of this hunt for personal reasons. I was, and still am, mentally and financially dedicated to this hunt. I have been planning for over a year for this hunt. Nobody could have foreseen what is happening right now in our Country and in our state. I think if something ever classified as "Out of one's control" this is it. I felt comfortable not going on the hunt after my many conversations with [REDACTED] and other members of the department expressing that they were going to review and do all they could to give me another opportunity. This is so much more than a trophy hunt for me. I have lived in Alaska for the last 15 years, I have adapted and made the Alaska lifestyle a huge part of my life and my families. Not only is this an incredibly "impossible tag to draw" it is also an incredible amount of food for my family. This hunt alone will fill two or three freezers with some of the best meat in the state. It really bothers me that one of the main talking points of this emergency meeting is to talk about brown bear tags. Don't get me wrong I support bear hunting in this state. However, when you decide to only consider bear hunting in this special board meeting, placing trophy bear hunting with no retention of meat required over a once in a lifetime meat hunt, I feel like you missed something big. I urge you to make the right decision and let me do this hunt in another season. I didn't want to be responsible for possibly getting people sick especially in a rural community not at all set up to handle a viral pandemic. I don't want my family to miss out on the next 3 years of bison meat because of something I had no control of. I also did not want to abandon my family during a worldwide crisis. I hope you understand, and will add this to your conversation at the meeting.

Thanks
Cole Wilburn

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

Comments for 4/14/20 Special Meeting

L.W. <cleopatra5331@yahoo.com>

Mon 4/13/2020 11:10 AM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov>

Cc: Paul Wisniewski <wiso_67@yahoo.com>

Alaska Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

Re: Special meeting on Tuesday, April 14, 2020

Dear Board:

First, I hope this letter finds everyone and their families in good health during these tough times.

My name is Paul Wisniewski, and I live in North Pole, Alaska. After many years of applying, I finally drew a 2020 spring season Kodiak brown bear tag. The Kodiak bear hunt is the hunt of a lifetime for me. I have spent countless hours researching and preparing for this hunt. I have spent over \$1,000 in purchasing equipment for this hunt, as well as getting physically fit to participate in this hunt. My hunting partner and I had a solid plan in place for this hunt. Our initial plan was to use the ferry system to travel to Kodiak. Since then, the ferry out of Homer has been cancelled. With the current travel restrictions in place until at least April 21, 2020, my hunting trip has been put on hold. I consider myself a person who abides by all rules and regulations, but I feel that without clear guidance from the Board regarding resident spring drawing permits, some hunters may travel to Kodiak anyway. The current situation leaves hunters uncertain of the future of their hunts.

I respectfully request that the Board consider shifting the spring drawing permits to a later date. Shifting the date would allow hunters to continue to plan and participate in, what is for many is, the hunt of a lifetime. It would also bring some stability with guaranteed future money from hunters to the Kodiak community. By shifting the spring drawing permits to a later date, hunters who must follow the travel mandates and social distancing, will have the guarantee that by doing the right thing, they will still be allowed to participate in their hunts at a later date. Furthermore, shifting the hunts would benefit everyone involved, the hunters, guides, transporter, and the City of Kodiak.

In closing, I would like to thank the Fish and Game for all of their work during this uncertain time. I also have 110% faith that the Board will make the best decision for everyone involved.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Paul Wisniewski
(907) 687-4109
North Pole, Alaska



BOG Special meeting regarding spring bear hunting comments

Mike Zweng <alaskaadventure@live.com>

Thu 4/9/2020 1:41 PM

To: DFG, BOG Comments (DFG sponsored) <dfg.comments@alaska.gov>

I am a registered guide and have a small guiding business on Kodiak Island. Each year I take 2-3 clients hunting for Brown Bear. I hunt mostly state land and therefore I am in competition with other guides for my clients to draw a very limited number of permits offered. Usually less than 30% of my clients submitted in the drawing successfully draw a permit.

Some of my clients were successful in drawing a permit for this spring 2020. I truly hope that those clients that drew a permit for this spring are able to use that permit in an upcoming season. These hunters have paid me fully since the results of the drawing came out prior to the COVID-19 Pandemic restrictions.

I have had multiple conversations with each of my clients and they are willing to allow me to keep the funds they have paid if their permit will be honored in an upcoming season. This is HUGE to me because it will allow me to continue to make my boat payment, pay for insurance, pay for equipment that I have already purchased in anticipation of this season (approximately \$7500), etc...

Over 80% of my guiding income comes from spring bear hunting on Kodiak. I have had clients that have been applying for a brown bear tag for over 5 years unsuccessfully, as I am sure other guides have as well. If one of those people drew a permit and we had to tell them that they lost their permit had to re-apply in the drawing again they would be furious and I am sure we would lose them as a client. In addition, I am also sure they would have nothing good to say about Alaska and their experience.

It would be wonderful if the clients that drew a permit for this spring had those permits valid for next spring, (and possibly have the option to hunt this fall but I don't believe many would want to hunt the fall season over spring season.) The Kodiak draw for next spring 2021 could be cancelled or possibly only have one permit per area in addition to the permits that were won in 2020, and then add 1 permit per area in addition to the normal number of permits over the next few years to make up for the lost opportunity in spring 2020. Once the lost opportunity was made up, the permit numbers could go back to the normal numbers pre 2020. To me this is a win-win-win situation because the biological impact would remain the same, the hunters permits would be honored, and the guides would be able to retain funds paid in order to keep their businesses afloat.

The clients that I was planning to submit for the spring 2021 drawing I am sure will be understanding that they will have to wait one more year due to the unprecedented circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 issue.

For unit 9, I fully support allowing hunting spring 2021 to make up for the missed spring 2020 season since there is only a spring season every other year. This is simple and makes total sense to me.

Mike Zweng

Registered guide #1290