

**ACR #5** – Allow brown/grizzly bears to be taken over bait in all of Unit 20D.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee

**CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.**

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

**WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.**

In the Delta Junction area, the winter of 2021-2022 had the largest snow accumulation in recorded history, per USDA-NRCS snow accumulation data. Making the event even more destructive, a mid-winter rain event put a two-inch ice layer in the middle of the snowpack. All wildlife in Unit 20D South suffered from the extremely hard winter, but especially the ungulates. According to ADF&G surveys completed and reported to the Delta Advisory Committee by local area biologists, the Delta Bison and the Macomb Plateau caribou herd populations were reduced by almost 50%. Surveys have not been completed at this time for area moose, but it is expected that their population numbers are also significantly lower than normal.

**WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?**

Amend the current regulation to allow grizzly/brown bears to be harvested at a bait station in the entirety of Unit 20D by striking the phrases “that portion of” and “north of the Tanana River”, from Section (b)(1) and (b)(13). After amendment the regulation would read “...20(A), 20(B), 20(C), 20(D), 20(E)...”, for both of the aforementioned sections.

**STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:**

**1) To correct an error in regulation.**

It is not.

**2) To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.**

It does not.

**3) Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?**

Yes, having the ability to help reduce the predator population will take an added level of stress off this year’s spring calf population.

**4) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?**

It does not.

**5) Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?**

Yes, last winter was unforeseeably harsh, the result of which could not have been predicted. Waiting for the regularly scheduled proposal session will prolong action and add further stress to our ungulate populations. Predator reduction is needed immediately.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?**

The Unit 20D South ungulate populations will take a significantly longer period of time to rebound.

**STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.**

The spring baiting season comes after the fall hunting

**IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.**

It is not allocative.

**STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.**

This ACR is being proposed by the Delta Fish and Game Advisory Committee

**STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.**

This ACR has appeared as a proposal many times during numerous Board of Game cycles. This proposal has significant community support and has been supported by the Delta Advisory Committee each time it appears.