

(The Board of Game deferred a portion of proposal 81 (Section 2) from the 2014 Interior Region meeting to the Statewide Regulations meeting scheduled for March 14-18, 2014.)

PROPOSAL 81 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts and 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Establish a nonresident Dall sheep drawing permit hunt for the Tok Management Area in Units 12, 13C and 20D as follows:

Section 1:

- Establish a separate Tok Management Area (TMA) draw permit for nonresidents for each hunt period (DS102 and DS103).
- Allocate a fixed 10% of TMA permits to nonresidents.
- Allow up to [no more than] 50% of nonresident permits to be issued to nonresidents hunting with a second-degree of kin relative.

Section 2:

- All nonresident applications for TMA permit hunts must include the following information: For the guide, supply name of guide or a number assigned by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) by the hunt number, or for second degree of kindred, list name of relative and relationship to the hunter. The permit drawing hunt application form will have to be revised to accommodate this requirement.
- Nonresident hunters that choose to hunt with a registered guide will be required to have their application completed and submitted by the same registered guide that will be contracting the hunt.
- Nonresident hunters that choose to hunt with a registered guide will also be required to have a guide-client agreement that is completed and signed by both the nonresident hunter and the registered guide they will be contracting the hunt with, prior to the drawing application deadline. A copy of this guide-client agreement must be provided to the Tok department office by the contracting guide prior to the draw application deadline.
- The guide must be registered for at least one Guide Use Area (GUA) within the TMA hunt area both during the year the application is submitted and the year the permit will be valid by the draw application deadline. For example, if a hunter applied for a permit for the application period of 2014, for a hunt that will be valid for the 2015 season, the registered guide would be required to be registered for at least one GUA within the TMA during the application period of 2014 and by January 1 of 2015. Any client who draws a permit with a guide registered in only one GUA of the TMA would only be allowed to hunt that GUA of the TMA and no other.
- Both the name of the nonresident hunter and the registered guide or a number provided by the department to the guide that will be contracting the hunt must be listed on the drawing application.

- Nonresident hunters must carry the guide-client agreement (dated prior to the drawing application deadline) in the field.

ISSUE: Clarify guide-client agreement requirements and nonresident drawing permit allocations for DS102 and DS103 (Tok Management Area Dall sheep permit).

There has been significant confusion about the current TMA guide-client agreement requirements and nonresident drawing permit allocations for DS102 and DS103 by the department.

While the Board of Game (board) finding (2007-173-BOG, dated March 12, 2007) was intended to provide direction to ADF&G about nonresident drawing allocation policy, and guide-client agreements, the intent of the finding has not been implemented consistently by the department, in particular, for the TMA drawings DS102 and DS103.

This has resulted in TMA draw hunt regulations and board findings not being implemented as originally intended by the board and allocation of TMA permits to recipients who have not completed a guide-client agreement with a guide who has a current GUA registration on file prior to the drawing.

Putting this proposed language into regulation will provide direction to the department, from the board, to properly implement the TMA guide-client agreement requirements and nonresident drawing permit allocations for DS102 and DS103 as originally intended by the board.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Confusion will continue, TMA draw hunt regulations and board findings will not be implemented as originally intended and permits will continue to be issued to unqualified recipients.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Yes. It will clarify the guide-client agreement requirements and nonresident drawing permit allocations for DS102 and DS103; therefore, reducing confusion by the department, hunters, and guides about the application process and reduce the potential for allocation of permits to unqualified recipients.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Those applicants to the draw permit trying to follow the intent of the board regulations and findings for the draw permit areas including the TMA. Protection officers would benefit by being able to track those trying to circumvent the regulatory process.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Guides who prefer not to have current GUAs registered on file prior to the drawing.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Not requiring the guide-client agreement to go to the local ADF&G office in Tok. We rejected it because it helps department staff and wildlife protection officers to know the guides are following regulation and not circumventing the

system. Department staff has already received complaints after the drawing which resulted in lengthy research. This would be better done before the drawing than after.

PROPOSED BY: Sue Entsminger and Matt Snyder

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