

Second-Degree of Kindred (2DK) Brown Bear Hunts in Game Management Unit 4

The Unit 4 Brown Bear Management Strategy recommended 4 Nonresident, second degree kindred hunts per year. Currently, all Unit 4 brown bears hunts are administered by registration permit.

Registration permit option

Spring Hunts

Establish two separate registration hunts as companion hunts to the RB088 (Outside waters) and RB089 (Inside waters) hunts. Potential hunters would apply for the registration permit online with applications limited to the first 8 qualified applicants. The first four qualified applicants would be issued registration permits; two for the RB088 area and two for RB089. If any of the first four applicants are unable to hunt, the remaining pool of applicants will be used to fill available permits. All other conditions of the permit would mirror what is currently required under the existing registration hunts.

Fall Hunt

Applicants would apply for the RB077 registration permit (valid for all of Unit 4) online with applications limited to the first six qualified applicants. The first three qualified applicants would be issued registration permits. If any of the three applicants are unable to hunt, the remaining pool of applicants will be used to fill available permits. All other conditions of the permit would mirror what is currently required under the existing registration hunts.

Draw permit option

A draw hunt would be established for second-degree of kindred brown bear hunts in Unit 4. Drawing permits would be applied for and awarded under the Department's current drawing permit system.

Spring Hunts

Establish two separate drawing hunts as companion hunts to the registration hunts RB088 (Outside waters) and RB089 (Inside waters) hunts. Potential hunters would apply for the drawing permit online with applications limited to the first 8 qualified applicants. The first four qualified applicants would be issued drawing permits; two for the RB088 area and two for RB089. If any of the first four applicants are unable to hunt, the remaining pool of applicants will be use to fill available permits. All other conditions

of the drawing permit would mirror what is currently required under the registration hunts.

Fall Hunt

Applicants would apply for the drawing permit (companion to the current RB077 registration permit). It would be valid for all of Unit 4. Applicants would be limited to the first six qualified applicants. The first three qualified applicants would be issued draw permits. If any of the three applicants are unable to hunt, the remaining pool of applicants will be used to fill available permits. All other conditions of the drawing permit would mirror what is currently required under the registration hunts.

Additional Considerations

A drawing permit system may be easier to administer than a registration permit.

While the BBMS objective could be met with 4 spring hunts and 3 fall hunts, the expectation is to manage the resulting hunt mortality to stay within the BBMS guidelines.

A drawing permit authorization by the Board of "up to XX permits" would allow flexibility by the department to adjust the number of hunts based on actual mortality levels. Spring hunts typically result in 70-80% of the yearly hunter harvest versus fall hunts.

Distribution of spring and fall permits provides an opportunity to disperse hunt pressure seasonally.

The board recently adopted a regulation clarifying resident relatives within the second-degree of kindred that are serving as guides for nonresident relatives must personally accompany the nonresident in the field and must be "within 100 yards when the nonresident attempts to take game" (pg. 10, 2014-2015 Alaska Hunting Regulations).