

I apologize for multiple RC's and for not being able to attend the meeting in person. I've been reviewing other comments and recommendations on this proposal and wanted to again add some thoughts.

I've hunted in and around the Chugach for over 30 years and grew up in Eagle River. I still spend a lot of time in Eklutna hunting and partaking in other activities.

I have hunted the DS141 once for myself in 2017 and two other times while helping friends. I have been in there many times just observing the rams during hunting season and am very well acquainted with where sheep live and where sheep hunters who have those tags typically hunt.

DS 141 has become a crowded hunt with up to 24 hunters essentially concentrated in just a couple of small zones where rams tend to reside. Because of the limited harvest rates of archery there are still rams in the area but the quality of the hunt is definirely compromised by the concentration of people. Expanding the archery DS141/241 into the East Fork makes much more sense than expanding the already very large rifle hunting area that also gets far fewer tags each year. If it's acceptable to start sheep hunting in the East Fork it has to be an expansion of the archery hunt. Bringing rifle hunters into that area will create rifle hunting pressure on the corner of Bold Peak on the north side of the East Fork and will have a massive detrimental affect on the already crowded Eklutna lake archery hunt.

Please consider expanding DS141/241 Archery hunts into the East Fork to enhance the quality of an already crowded hunting area instead of expanding the rifle hunting area which is already much larger and has far fewer tags allotted over the season.

Thank you again for you consideration.

Sincerely,

Paul Forward