

PROPOSAL 79

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

Reopen Unit 19C to nonresident sheep hunters as follows:

Unit 19C Dall Sheep Hunting Season Dates 2024:

Nonresident Hunters: Aug 10 - Sept 20, 2024.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Reauthorize nonresident Dall sheep hunting opportunity within Unit 19C.

Dall sheep management in Alaska has been successfully conducted for several decades by utilizing the “Full Curl” concept of management which recognizes that harvest of older age class rams does not impact overall sheep population trends. This is a long time proven scientific basis that has successfully spanned numerous historical varying Dall sheep population trends, eras, and regions throughout the state without requiring changes to allocation.

Through addressment of an out of cycle proposal (2023 instead of 2024) relative to closing nonresident Dall sheep allocation within Unit 19C, the proposal as passed was emotionally driven, ignored long term proven scientific management, was out of bounds in relation to the integrity of the process, and hurtful to those who depend upon the scientific driven conservation basis of wildlife management.

By deviating from proven, scientific management guidelines, we have paved the way for utilization of non-science-based action to base similar hunter restriction or elimination efforts within both State and Federal wildlife management arenas.

Board of Game (BOG) decisions turning away from Dall sheep full curl management will lead to similar requests relative to moose management by antler restrictions.

If it is not broken, don’t fix it. Do not open Pandora’s Box of curses. Full curl management and antler restrictions work.

Elimination of allocation without proven science and ignoring proven science to take away livelihoods generates unneeded disrespect for the BOG process. How can any professional guide service provider try to build viability and sustainability within a conservation based operating basis, not live in fear of BOG actions. This type of action generates unneeded disrespect for the process.

BOG action taking away nonresident hunter allocation, will not affect the Dall’s sheep population trend within Unit 19C.

ADF&G Department of Wildlife Conservation staff provided the BOG solid data that Dall sheep management by full curl guidelines works. The BOG chose to differ from known and proven science by eliminating nonresident allocation within Unit 19C.

Professional guides would have a few hunters according to viable opportunity, the dreams of their clients would be intact, local businesses would have continued to have revenue, resident hunters would have opportunity and all of us should have turned together to focus on initiatives that would actually help our wild sheep.

The Alaska Board of Game and Big Game Commercial Services Board have a liaison position which was developed for situations that need addressed by both entities. That position should be encouraged to bring

concerns relative to conservation trends for distribution to professional service providers who operate within the regions and species of concern. This position was designed to help buffer conservation and allocation concerns and should be encouraged.

Respectfully Submitted

PROPOSED BY: Taiga Resources Conservation

(EG-F23-310)
