

PROPOSAL 96

5 AAC 85.020. Hunting seasons and bag limits for brown bear.

Lengthen the resident and nonresident brown/grizzly bear hunting season by changing the start date to August 10 as follows:

Lengthen the hunting season for brown/grizzly bear in Unit 19C as follows:

AAC 85.020(18) Unit 19(C) Brown/Grizzly Bear.

Brown/grizzly bear for both residents and nonresidents in Unit 19C. One bear every regulatory year. Open Season: **August 10** [September1]– May 31.

If nothing is done, the brown/grizzly bear population will continue to increase, which will have a negative effect in the carrying capacity for all wildlife in Unit 19C. Furthermore, this increase in brown/grizzly bears will have a negative impact on all ungulate populations. Ungulate populations will struggle to rebound or even maintain there current numbers and the department will have to confiscate or destroy any defense of life or property (DLP) or problem bear.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lengthen the hunting season for Brown/Grizzly bears in Unit 19C. Currently the season is September 1-May 31. Lengthen the season to August 10-May 31. In the pastfive years I have personally witnessed a steady increase in the population of brown/grizzly bears in Unit 19C and a steady decrease in Bison, Moose, Caribou and a sharp decrease in Dall sheep. Causing ADF&G to decrease the number of bison permits issued from 30 to 20 and the Board of Game (BOG) to implement a nonresident moose draw within the registration hunt area of Unit 19C and furthermore a complete shutdown of nonresident Dall sheep hunting in Unit 19C. I've watched numerous brown/grizzly bears take down bison calves, moose calves and Dall sheep lambs in the spring and have had multiple Dall sheep stalks blown by brown/grizzly bears. While brown/grizzly bears aren't overly successful in the catching of Dall sheep in the fall, the constant harassment of getting pushed off good grazing ground has detrimental effects to the sheep in the long run. Having brown/grizzly bear season coincide with Dall sheep and caribou, will allow hunters to harvest a brown/grizzly bear that they wouldn't necessarily be able to otherwise. Harvesting a brown/grizzly bear in August will in turn help all ungulates in Unit 19C. Secondly, the early season will allow the lawful take of any problem or defense of life and property (DLP) bear that a Dall sheep hunter or caribou hunter might encounter.

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