

**PROPOSAL 105**

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

Adjust the boundaries of the Kodiak brown bear drawing hunt areas for Kiliuda Bay and Ugak Bay as follows:

The new regulation would adjust the description and maps showing the Kodiak brown bear drawing hunt areas in Kiliuda Bay (-4) and Ugak Bay (-2) to match the state land/federal land border between the two hunt units as the provided maps indicate.\* Currently, this border does not match the state land/federal land border as the included maps show.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** This proposal is to adjust the common border of the Kodiak bear drawing hunt areas between Kiliuda Bay and Ugak Bay to match the state land/federal land border.

<b>Kiliuda Bay (-4) hunts</b>	Spring Drawing hunt #	Fall Drawing hunt #
Resident	DB234	DB204
Nonresident	DB134	DB104

The hunts above will be referred to as the “-4” hunt area

<b>Ugak Bay (-2) hunts</b>	Spring Drawing hunt #	Fall Drawing hunt #
Resident	DB232	DB202
Nonresident	DB132	DB102

The hunts above will be referred to as the “-2” hunt area

These brown bear drawing areas have the same borders as the state Guide Use Areas 8-02 and 8-04. The purpose of this change is to have the brown bear drawing area borders match the state Guide Use Areas as well as the KNWR (Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge) Guide Use Areas. All three of these borders match for almost all of Kodiak, but Kiliuda Bay state Guide Use Area 8-04 does not match federal Guide Use Area KOD-18, and therefore brown bear drawing hunt area -4 does not match the federal land/state land border.

This proposal is to adjust the northern border of the -4 brown bear hunt areas listed above to line up with the state land/federal land border. Maps with the current and proposed border changes have been provided to illustrate the change.

Currently, brown bear hunt area -4 is approximately 2/3 federal land and 1/3 state land by size. This border change would only impact bear drawing areas -4 and -2. The border change would make -4 somewhat smaller and make -2 somewhat larger.

Access to hunt area -2 is currently somewhat restricted due to the majority of the area being mountainous, Hidden Basin has private property and the south arm of Ugak Bay has a permanent lodge.

The border change will allow significantly more access to hunt area -2 from Kiliuda Bay and reduces hunter congestion in Ugak Bay. Access to hunt area -4 would not be an issue since it is a peninsula and can be accessed from several sides.

This proposed change would only impact bear hunting because the goat hunting area (DG476) border is not common to the current border of -4, nor is it common to the proposed border move to the state land/ federal land boundary.

Since resident and nonresident bear hunting is allocated based on a drawing, this proposal would need a review of the bear hunting drawing permit allocation numbers by the Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G). However, it seems reasonable that approximately 2/3 of the number of current bear hunting permits for both resident and nonresidents from -4 would remain with -4 based on the fact that the new size of -4 would be approximately 2/3 the size of the current area. The other 1/3 of permits would be added to the -2 hunt area allocation.

Goat hunting permits would remain unchanged since there are no border changes proposed for DG476.

Record keeping from previous bear hunting activities for bear hunt area changes would need to be updated, however, ADG&G tracks this information when the bears are sealed as well as on the hunt report.

Guides that hunt on state land in areas -2 and -4 would benefit because they would only have to register in one Guide Use Area (8-02) instead of two as they do currently to be able to hunt all the state land currently contained in the two hunt areas, -2 and -4, since the state land in -4 would be added to the -2 area. This would allow guides to register another Guide Use Area in Alaska without exceeding the max of three areas.

The lodge in Ugak Bay in the -2 area would have less pressure because guided hunts in the newly altered -2 area could hunt on the Kiliuda Bay side of the hunt area, thereby reducing hunter density and improving the quality of the experience from the Ugak Bay side.

There is a current underutilization of hunt area -4 on the KNWR land for nonresident guided hunts since there is only one federal refuge permit holder. Refuge permit holder competes for permits with all guides that hunt state land in -4. Example: Spring of 2017 and spring of 2018 had no guided nonresident hunts on the federal land of -4 because the guides hunters drew no permits even though they had the maximum number of hunters apply that is allowed in both years. The Kiliuda Bay federal land will be able to have regular guided hunts for nonresident hunters, more evenly distributing the harvest if the border is adjusted to line up with the state land/federal land border.

There is a current overutilization of -4 state land for nonresident guided bear hunts since all guided hunting has to take place on a small area of state land in the -4 hunt area with the exception of the current federal wildlife special use permit holder who can hunt the federal land portion of -4.

The Kodiak bear hunt drawing areas currently match the state Guide Use Areas. Therefore, an associated change to the state Guide Use Area borders of Kodiak areas 8-02 (Ugak Bay) and 8-04 (Kiliuda Bay) (such that 8-04 matches the KNWR Guide Use Area KOD-18) will be sought from the Big Game Commercial Services Board (BGCSB) upon the acceptance of this proposal by the Board of Game (board). This two-step approval is required since the board controls the brown bear drawing hunt area borders, and the BGCSB controls the state Guide Use Area borders under **12 AAC 75.265**.

*\*Note: The author submitted maps and additional information for this proposal, which are available on the Board of Game proposal book webpage at [www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook](http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.proposalbook) or by contacting the ADF&G Boards Support Section at (907) 465-4046.*

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