

SUBSTITUTE FOR PROPOSAL 29

RC 031

Submitted by Dan Montgomery, author of original Proposal 29

I would like to change this from a trapping proposal to a hunting proposal and mirror the language that is presently in the Handy Dandy, pg 140, for Fur Animal hunting for Beaver in units 18, 22, and 23:

Unit 9: **No Bag Limit**.....no closed season

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The beaver population is ever expanding in Unit 9. They are damming up more small streams every year and preventing salmon from reaching their spawning grounds. Many of these small streams have lost their entire run of salmon. It was especially bad in the summer of 2019 when there was an extensive drought. I witnessed where beavers dammed two of the major spawning streams where I guide for brown bear. There was no salmon in them at all and no bears on the streams. These streams are normally 15 feet wide and two-or-more feet deep but with the reduced water flow because of the drought they were able to dam them. As of May 12, 2020, they are still dammed. The beaver population needs to be reduced. The liberalization of the beaver season, harvest methods, bag limits, salvage requirements and eliminating some of the sealing requirements will give everyone the maximum opportunity to harvest the surplus of beavers in this unit. Many of the residents and some nonresidents have expressed interest in being able to harvest a few beavers when they are hunting other species. Local residents will be able to harvest beaver anytime they want for food or fur. Most of Unit 9 is very remote with very little harvest of beavers at all.