

March 4, 2022 Meeting

The Alaska Board of Game

Dear Chairman and Members

Written Comments:

My name is Tom Kirstein, I live in Fairbanks and I would like to speak to several of the proposals that concern unit 8, Kodiak Island and other statewide proposals.

I have professionally guided on Kodiak Island over 40 years within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. I also conduct guided adventures in units 9 and 20.

**Proposal 151: Drawing Permits.**

This proposal would have a detrimental effect on allocation of bear permits for Kodiak Island Guiding businesses should it pass. The allocation of permits for Kodiak Island needs to remain as is. The allocation of bear permits on Kodiak Island was designed to offer stewardship of bear hunting opportunities by professional guides who conduct those adventures. The unintended consequences to our businesses, non-resident hunters, land and game managers would likely create unnecessary hardship should this take place.

This proposal is more about disrupting the current allocation process for the non-resident hunters. Kodiak Island is unique, it is the shining example in Alaska and one of the oldest permit allocations for a big game species that works well for resident and non-resident hunters alike.

Oppose this proposal

**Proposal 241: Drawing Permits for Second Degree of Kindred**

I support a separate allocation for Second Degree of Kindred Permits for all guide required species, for any unit the Board of Game establishes a draw hunt. When there is guide required species the allocation for Resident Second Degree of Kindred should be that part of the Resident Hunters allocation, this should be uniform in all hunts that offer drawing permits. Non- Resident Second Degree

Kindred because of the unique relationship with the resident relative should always be treated as part of the resident pool of available permits. There should also be a limited number of these Second Degree permits otherwise the resident hunter allocation could have over subscription during the drawing process.

Oppose this proposal

Proposal 137: Unlawful methods of taking game

These proposals that pertain to locating Dall Sheep with aircraft I would ask that the Board to Game maintaining regulation language that would restrict flying and spotting of sheep during the any open sheep season. Adjusting the restriction to any sheep season that is open would take into account earlier opening hunts that take place, such as for youth hunts.

The effects of the regulation have been working but most of the flying public does not like having this regulation restriction during the sheep season. I would guess that 85% of the flying pubic follow's this regulation and the intended result of less conflicts with aircraft spotting sheep during the season works!

I support keeping regulation language that will restrict the use of aircraft spotting and locating sheep during any hunting season!

Board Members, thank you for serving on the Board of Game, it is very much appreciated!

Tom Kirstein

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