

PROPOSAL 103

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

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

5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Establish a bear bait hunt in Unit 14C, the McHugh Creek drainage area for black and brown bear as follows:

(1) Station for bear baiting for brown and black bears in Unit 14C McHugh Creek Drainage area starting May 1 through June 15. Up to six certified users of the bait station shall operate the bait station by registration permit.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Create a bear bait hunt within the Chugach State Park for brown and black bears. The area proposed is around the McHugh Creek area. Exact location of the bait station will be approved by ADF&G to help eliminate dangerous encounters with bears and recreational users of the park. The purpose of the proposal is to help reduce the overall number of bears on the hillside through conservation. After speaking with ADF&G biologists, a large number of bear are present in this area. Over the years there has been encounters with bears that have taken the lives of people using the park for recreational purposes. After a recent encounter ADF&G had to kill several bears when a 14-year-old boy was stalked and eaten by a bear. By using a bait station for hunting bears, the chances of wounding a bear is greatly reduced because the bears are lured in to close range and are usually moving slow or standing still for the hunter to take the shot. The location of the bait station will lure the bears away from heavily used trails and help prevent these dangerous encounters. If this proposal does not pass more dangerous encounters and possible deaths may occur. The bear population will increase and put more pressure on ADF&G staff to control population growth.

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