

*Note: Proposal 208 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Southcentral Region meeting scheduled for March 2023.*

**PROPOSAL 208**

**5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.**

Modify the nonresident drawing permit allocation for Dall sheep in Unit 14C as follows:

I prefer the Department of Fish and Game convert the permits of the original proposal to second degree kindred (2DK) that the board adopted and issue at least one permit for each of the four rifle permit areas. They are: Unit 14C Northwest, 14C Northeast, 14C Upper Eagle River and 14C Southwest.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The Board of Game passed Proposal 149 that I submitted at the statewide meeting in March of this year. The proposal was to create a separate draw for 2nd degree of kindred (2DK) hunters for sheep where there was an allocation for nonresidents. In Unit 14C the proposal was to take DS236 Ship Creek and convert it to a 2DK permit. The Ship Creek unit has the largest sheep population and the best access, and this permit is at the start of the season. It has a total of three nonresident permits in all. One for each of the three 13-day seasons with eight resident permits in each season.

The department instead converted DS224 in the Hunter Creek unit into the 2DK permit which is now DS024. This is the only nonresident permit for the Hunter Creek unit for the year and now guides have no access to this area at all for nonresidents. I have no idea why the department did this. The department also eliminated DS233 in the Eagle River unit and it was the only nonresident permit in that unit. Now there is no nonresident permits at all in this unit. Losing these two permits and access to these areas is devastating for guides in this unit. These two units generally have the largest sheep in them.

I proposed the regulation back in the mid-2000's that the board adopted, that limits nonresidents to 13.5% of the total number of permits issued in Unit 14C for sheep. It is supposed to be implemented so there is at least one permit in each of the units every year for nonresidents. That is the way it was implemented until this year w

The department also did not convert one of the three DS240 archery only nonresident permits to a 2DK only permit. I can understand their thinking on this because it would be above the 20% max threshold for these four permits, but I think it should still implemented.

I think there is an error in how the regulation was implemented and not issuing the Archery only 2DK permit.

I think the regulation was not implemented properly as the board had adopted it.

I think the request identifies an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable harvest would be precluded by delayed regulation action, and such delay would be burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future because the older full curl sheep might die in the winter or get harvested without guides having access to hunt them. The permits can't be allocated the next year and there is no opportunity for guides to make up for this lost opportunity.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Montgomery

(HQ-F22-ACR13)

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