

PROPOSAL 24

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

5 AAC 92.510. Areas closed to hunting.

Open the Petersburg Creek drainage of Kupreanof Island in Unit 3 to black bear hunting as follows:

5 AAC 92.510(a)(5)(C)

That portion of Kupreanof Island that includes the Petersburg Creek drainages is closed to black bear hunting **except that: black bears may be taken by resident certified bowhunters who obtain a limited registration permit**

5 AAC 85.015

Kupreanof Island RESIDENT HUNTERS: **Petersburg Creek drainage, one bear by bow and arrow only, April 15 - June 30, UP TO 10 permits will be issued on a first come first serve basis at Petersburg ADF&G office, limit one bear per hunter**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently the Petersburg Creek drainage of Kupreanof Island is closed to the taking of black bears. Hunters and anglers are allowed to participate in all other forms of recreation in the area. This includes opportunities for moose, deer, wolves, waterfowl, and various fish species, though black bears remain protected. There is some desire from local bear hunters to access this area due to proximity of town and the seemingly high population. A limited access and weapon restricted hunt could provide the necessary opportunity to harvest some bears with minimal interference of and considerations towards other common user groups in the area (sport fishing, fall bear watching, sightseeing, etc.) A spring-only season for certified bowhunters with a limited number of permits (only available at the Petersburg ADF&G office) would allow for a unique opportunity to hunt bears and keep hunter interactions with other user groups at a minimum.

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