

PROPOSAL 82

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

Expand the Unit 14C northeast sheep drawing hunt areas to include the East Fork Eklutna hunt area as follows:

Add East Fork Eklutna area, former hunt numbers DS127, DS128 and DS129 to the Unit 14C northeast unit hunt numbers DS124, DS125 DS126 and DS224.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The East Fork Eklutna area, hunt numbers DS127, DS128 and DS129 has been closed to rifle sheep hunting since a least 2012. The only open season is for the late areawide bow season DS140 and DS240. There was a massive die off in the winter of 1998-1999 and the sheep population continued to decline until there was no full curls in the unit and it was closed in 2011 or 2012. In the last four years there has been a number of rams that have been in the unit with three or four being mature full curls but rifle hunters had no open season to hunt them. It hasn't been consistent enough in my opinion to issue permits just in the East Fork Eklutna. I would like to see the East Fork Eklutna area added to the adjoining area in Unit14C northeast unit hunt numbers DS124, DS125, DS126 and DS224 without increasing the permits in the area unless the department thinks there is enough rams to do so. This would allow hunters more opportunity and more area to hunt and better access without putting more pressure on the resource.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery

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