

**PROPOSAL 83**

**5 AAC 85. 055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.**

Reopen the late rifle hunt for sheep in Unit 14C and redistribute the existing permits to not increase the total take of rams as follows:

Reopen the late areawide rifle season DS139 but don't increase the total number of permits issued by taking some permits from DS132-one permit, DS137- one permit, DS138 - two permits and eliminating DS232.

The new hunt structure would be as follows:

DS132 - 5 resident permits

DS137 - 7 resident permits

DS138 - 6 resident permits

DS139 - 4 resident permits

DS239 - 1 nonresident permit

DS232 - Eliminated for now but could be issued again if the sheep population in the area increases and the permits for all hunters are increased for this area.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** I would like to see the areawide late rifle season DS139 reopened. DS139 did not include the hunt areas of DS123 and it would not include them now. The season dates were Sept. 18 to Sept. 30. This hunt was discontinued in 2012 because of a sharp decline in the sheep population and the department was issuing 20 permits and there was too much pressure on the rams. The population has stabilized now but there can be a lack of legal full curl rams in the late hunts in the Ship Creek unit hunts DS138 - eight resident permits and DS238 - one nonresident permit and the Peters Creek unit hunts DS132 - six resident hunters and DS232 - one nonresident hunter. At the same time we have observed a surplus of 10 year-old plus rams in the Upper Eagle River unit and the northeast - Hunter Creek unit lately. It would be beneficial to all hunters to have a very limited increased access to these other areas and the rams in them. By closing DS139 in 2012, it also prevented the governor's permit holder from hunting this time period. My proposal would be to open DS139 again but not to increase the number of permits issued overall but to take some of the later season permits from DS137 - one resident permit, DS138 - two resident permits, DS132 - one resident permit and DS232 - one nonresident permit and take these five permits, four resident and one nonresident and place the four resident permits in DS139 and the one nonresident permit in DS239. I would also recommend never increasing the number of permits for these two hunts. These permit holders would still be able to hunt the original areas if they wanted to but also the three additional areas. Weather can be very harsh this time of year and I think there will be a very low success rate for this hunt. There is a 13.5% nonresident permit allocation for Unit 14C and this change would keep the permit allocation in compliance with that.

**PROPOSED BY:** Dan Montgomery

(EG-F22-071)

\*\*\*\*\*