

**PROPOSAL 97**

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

**5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.**

Establish a primitive weapons hunt or any weapons hunt for brown bear in the West Fork of Eagle River Drainage in Unit 14C as follows:

Hunt Area: Unit 14C, South Fork Eagle River: all drainages into South Fork Eagle River, excluding that area within ½ mile of a developed facility. Brown bear.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The West Fork of Eagle River drainage is known for having a substantial population of bears. There have been several known bear attacks. The latest in June 2018. I have a view of the north facing side of Highland Mountain and consistently see brown and black bears on that mountain in the fall. It's important we hunt bears in this area to maintain their fear of human encounters. With the increase in hiking post-pandemic, there is an increased likelihood of hiker/bear encounters. I would like the Board of Game (BOG) to either implement a primitive weapons hunt or an any weapons hunt in this area. Season dates and tag allotment to be determined by ADF&G Biologists. Recommended by submitter to be the same dates as DL457 (Oct. 1 - 31) to alleviate hunter/hiker encounters. I am intentionally separating black and brown bears for this submission for deliberation within BOG and tag allotment by ADF&G biologists.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Watkins

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