

**PROPOSAL 98**

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

**5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.**

Open a hunt for brown bear within the Rainbow Creek drainage in Unit 14C as follows:

Hunt Area: Unit 14C, Rainbow creek: all drainages into Rainbow, excluding that area within a ½ mile of the Seward Highway or within ½ mile of a developed facility. Brown bear.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** In the last cycle of the Board of Game (BOG) meetings for Unit 14C, the BOG deliberated on Rainbow Creek drainage. The way it was written was for black bears, but biologists said it is not an area where black bears frequent. They said the area is frequented by brown bears. After discussion, this was rejected instead of amended by the BOG, so I am submitting with brown bears. With the increase in hiking post-pandemic, there is a likelihood of hiker/bear encounters. To get ahead of the issue, there should be a draw tag within the Rainbow Creek drainage. Season dates and tag allotment to be determined by ADF&G biologists. If primitive weapons will help to get the tag accepted, submitter agrees to that.

**PROPOSED BY:** Brian Watkins

(EG-F22-013)

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