
PROPOSAL 17 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Modify the permit allocation for Dall sheep in Unit 14C as follows:

I propose making approximately 5% to 25% of the permits, depending on the draw area, available to nonresidents. Permits could be allocated as follows, with nonresidents hunting with qualified residents of 2nd degree of kindred putting in with the resident draw:

- 14C Central: DS 123-1 permit total, available to anyone, resident or nonresident
- 14C Northeast: DS 124-3 resident; DS 125-3 resident; DS 126-3 resident} 1 nonresident total, August 10 – September 17.
- 14C E. Eklutna: DS 127-1 resident; DS 128-1 resident; DS 129-1 resident} 1 nonresident total, August 10 – September 17.
- 14C Northwest: DS 130-7 resident; 1 nonresident; DS 131-7 residents, 1 nonresident; DS 132-7 resident} 1 nonresident total, August 10 – September 17.
- 14C Upper Eagle River: DS 133-1 resident; DS 134-1 resident; DS 135-1 resident} 1 nonresident total, August 10 – September 17.
- 14C Southwest: DS 136-7 resident, 1 nonresident; DS 137-7 resident, 1 nonresident; DS 138-7 resident} 1 nonresident total, August 10 – September 17.
- 14C West Area Wide: DS 139-18 residents, 2 nonresident
- 14C West, Bow: DS 140-76 resident, 4 nonresident
- 14C W Eklutna, Bow only: DS 141-23 residents, 3 nonresident

With this formula, nonresidents get to participate in all hunt areas. The total allocations are: rifle hunts, 76 permits for residents, 11 for nonresidents (13% non-resident); bow hunts, 99 for residents, 6 for nonresidents (6% non-resident).

The past draw results for rifle hunts are broken down as follows:

- 2004 121 residents, 18 nonresidents (13% nonresident)
- 2005 119 residents, 9 nonresidents (7% nonresident)
- 2006 102 residents, 27 nonresidents (21% nonresident)
- 2007 65 residents, 31 nonresidents (32% nonresident)
- 2008 79 residents, 17 nonresidents (18% nonresident)

ISSUE: Too many sheep permits in Unit 14C are being drawn by nonresidents, resulting in over harvesting of rams area wide. In some hunts this year all of the permits are issued to nonresidents, as there is currently no upper limit on nonresident draws. Mature ram numbers are plunging, and hunt quality has been dramatically reduced in the last five years. There is no balance to how the permits are currently being drawn; guided nonresidents are getting too many permits in some areas and not enough in others. There are just too many permits being issued.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? The hunt quality will continue to decline for everyone.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? The quality of the hunt will improve for all hunters by having fewer guided hunts in each area and overall. Lower guide pressure will allow more mature rams to survive, and result in less conflict for existing rams.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? Resident hunters will have a higher chance of drawing. Nonresident guided hunters would not have any conflicts with other guides because there won't be more than one non-resident participating in any rifle hunt except for DS139, the area wide hunt, which will have two.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? There will be less guided hunters, forcing some guides to go elsewhere.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? I considered a flat 10% of permits going to non-residents, but with the number of permits available it would be hard to determine numbers and non-residents wouldn't get to participate in all hunts.

Submitted by Dan Montgomery

In support of Proposal 208

PROPOSAL 14 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Modify the permit distribution for nonresidents in Unit 14C as follows:

Limit nonresident hunters to 10 percent or less of the available permits for Unit 14C Dall Sheep.

ISSUE: Overharvest of trophy quality Dall Sheep rams in Unit 14C permit areas by guide assisted nonresident hunters.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE? Reduced numbers of mature, trophy-sized rams available for the permit holders.

WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED? Limiting guided nonresident hunters should improve the number of mature rams for all permit holders to hunt, as guided nonresident hunters have a higher success rate than resident hunters. Recently, there has been an increase in nonresident hunters drawing Unit 14C Dall sheep, contributing to a high hunter success rate and removing all trophy quality rams from some permit areas.

WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT? All permit holders will benefit with improved quality rams available. A greater benefit will go to the resident hunters who will receive most of the permits to hunt the state they live in.

WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER? Alaska Department of Fish and Game will lose some nonresident license and tag fees that are used to fund their operation. Unit 14C big game guides will suffer from less nonresident hunters to provide their services to.

OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED? Reducing overall permit numbers for Unit 14C Dall sheep would reduce hunting opportunities for both resident and nonresident hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Matanuska Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee (HQ-09S-G-080)
