

**PROPOSAL 102**

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

**5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.**

Open a fall bear bait season in Unit 19E as follows:

I am proposing a fall baited season from August 1st- September 30th for both black and grizzly bear. In the area of Unit 19E it's verry thick bush and almost flat right on the river making a spot and stalk hunt difficult. Currently folks have to fly to the hills to find success hunting bears as a spot and stalk method. If a fall baited season was open it would greatly help the opportunity in harvesting bears on the Holitna River and get the numbers in check. Also accessing the river and baits in the fall is much easier. Not only that but the bugs are gone for the most part making hunting in the fall more attractive. Help us help the moose population!

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Too many bears. It's clear and evident that Unit 19E and our area on the Holitna River has a very healthy predator population. I live on the Holitna River and in the spring, we see moose calves arrive and in a lot of cases they quickly disappear. Often, we witness a cow with two calves and three days later one and then a few days later none. We do as well see a lot of predators at our place and up and down the river. In the area of Unit 19E from what we see there is a great abundance of bears.

The spring baited season is ok for baiting to help thin out these predators however the spring thaw sometimes limits people from being able to access the area. Sometimes the river doesn't open till the second week of May and then the rest of the month is high water making it not only difficult to access the area but difficult to bait. June the water levels come down but by then we are busy focusing in on working with our fishing clients. Not only that but the bugs in June can be really bad and at that point no one wants to sit on a bait for hours on end.

These factors make it difficult for a lodge/outfitter to make it attractive for nonresidents to come and help us with a population problem. Therefore, we are hardly able to help make any dent in the population. If this continues the moose population will continue to struggle.

**PROPOSED BY:** Daniel Paull

(EG-F23-196)

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