

PROPOSAL 168

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

Lengthen the Unit 26B brown bear hunting seasons within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area for residents and nonresidents as follows:

Extend the brown bear spring season to **Jan 1 - June 15th** in Unit 26B "Within Dalton Highway Corridor" and Unit 26B Remainder.

Open the fall season 15 days earlier to **Aug 10- Dec 31** in hunt area Unit 26B Remainder.

Align the nonresident hunt dates of DB987 to match the resident dates and allow a nonresident with a draw permit to hunt **Aug 10-June 15**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Lost brown bear hunting opportunity in the spring and fall seasons in Unit 26B hunts RB988/989 and nonresident draw hunt DB987.

The hunts in these areas are closely managed by registration and draw harvest reporting. Therefore a risk to over harvest is not a concern.

There will be some concern about harvesting bears with poor hide quality if spring dates are extended however some bears have poor hides in the spring and fall and hunters can be selective and avoid harvesting a bear with a poor hide.

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