

PROPOSAL 28

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

Change the Unit 22D and 22E nonresident brown bear drawing permit hunt to a general season hunt as follows:

I am recommending changing drawing tag DB690 to an over-the-counter tag beginning August 1, 2024. Nonresidents: Unit 22D/E - One bear every regulatory year [BY PERMIT] August 1-June 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The brown bear population in Unit 22D and Unit 22E has been increasing, and harvest is low. Currently, the nonresident hunters that apply for the Unit 21 available nonresident bear tags are traveling to this area to primarily hunt caribou and moose in the fall, with the bear being a bonus species. The caribou tags are over the counter, and moose tags are now a draw. Moose hunters unsuccessful in the draw but successful in drawing the brown bear are not coming to take advantage of the drawn brown bear tag. Changing from a draw to an over-the-counter tag would allow more nonresidents to purchase a metal locking tag and hunt for brown bears in Unit 22D and Unit 22E. This increases revenue for Alaska and the local area and potentially the harvest of more brown bears by guided nonresidents.

PROPOSED BY: Justin Horton

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