

PROPOSAL 29

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

Increase the number of brown bear drawing permits available in Unit 22B for DB685 to 40 permits, or change DB685 to a registration permit as follows:

I would like the Board of Game to keep the draw hunt number DB685 for Unit 22B and to issue 40 nonresident permits or make Unit 22B a registration hunt. Registration would be better and cheaper for the department.

Every year since the DB685 was adopted it has been undersubscribed. Every year, ADF&G has to go back and forth between draw results and issue undersubscribed permits creating more paperwork and work for both the department and users. As a commercial operator this is difficult at times, but I also understand this is just the cost of doing business. I would like Board of game to not include Unit 22C nonresidents, but to be on a separate DB or RB number. This would allow additional user opportunities for both areas and there not being a biological concern. I don't see a problem with this, nor will see an increase in harvest. This would simply allow nonresidents for an increase of opportunity. If adopted, please make the registration via online or in person at any ADF&G office. If the board does not increase or make Unit 22B a registration hunt, I would ask the board not to change anything to DB685.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? DB685 includes both Unit 22B and Unit 22C and they issue 27 permits for grizzly for nonresidents. Any left over permits after the draw period become undersubscribed. DB685 was adopted in 2012 and has been undersubscribed every year. Twentyseven permits are being issued between the draw and undersubscribed application periods and not all of them are being used. The problem is once they are issued, an individual like myself cannot not book another hunt because of no permits left over. A lot of these permits are being issued and not being filled. In this area there is a one bear bag limit for nonresidents and two bear for residents per regulatory year. There is definitely not a biological concern for grizzly in Unit 22B. As for a matter of fact many locals have told me to harvest more bear. The harvest has been around fifteen bears annually between Units 22B and 22C. Units 22B and 22C should be separated. A majority of the pressure is in Unit 22C around the Nome area. Unit 22B is a much much larger area (164.46 miles by 85.67 miles) than Units 22C (74.55 miles by 38.14 miles) and far more remote than Unit 22C. ADF&G has had one emergency closure in Unit 22C when 25 bears were harvested. I believe with the size of Unit 22B and the number of bears in Unit 22B, it could handle 45 bear harvests.

PROPOSED BY: James Smith

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