

PROPOSAL 44

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

Reduce the sheep bag limit for resident hunters in Units 12, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26B and 26C to one ram with full-curl horn or larger every two regulatory years as follows:

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Unit 12, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26B & 26C Sheep.

Resident hunters: One ram with full-curl horn or larger **every two 2 regulatory years** [One ram with full curl horn larger] Harvest ticket. August 10-September 20.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Issue: reduced Dall sheep numbers due to winter events over a large percentage of Alaska resulting in fewer available rams available for potential harvest by hunters. Fewer mature legal rams can create competition amongst hunters in the field. Competition often results in pressure to fill tags leading to unacceptable levels of sub-legal harvest. Harvesting of 8-year-old/full curl/both horns broken has been established by ADF&G professional biologists as effective to maintain the sheep populations.

Goal: maintain hunting opportunity for all hunters pursuing Dall sheep by giving incentive to harvest mature legal rams while reducing harvest and pressure on sheep, reducing competition amongst hunters, and allowing for breeding age rams to remain in the herd longer.

Solution: implement a one ram every two years for resident hunters. Nonresident hunters are already one ram every four years. This will force hunters to be more selective in taking rams lowering the number of small breeding age and sub-legal rams taken. Allowing more breeding age mature yet less than full curl rams to remain in the herd after hunting season will reduce pressure on the sheep herd while maintaining resident priority.

PROPOSED BY: Jeff Pralle

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