

PROPOSAL 46

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

5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts.

Change all sheep hunting in Units 12, 19, and 20 to drawing permit only for residents and nonresidents, with a set allocation of permits between user groups as follows:

All sheep hunting in Units 12, 19 and 20 should be by draw permit only. Nonresidents are guaranteed 20% of the permits. 10% of the total of these nonresident permits will be issued to second degree of kindred hunters with a separate draw permit number. The nonresident permits should be issued by Guide Use Area and the number determined by the department from their counts. Nonresidents will have to apply with a guide and have a guide-client contract in place with them before they apply. Guides have to be registered for the area the year their hunters are applying and the year the hunt will occur and the guides have to have a Unique Verification Code issued by the Big Game Commercial Services Board before hunters apply. Guides will have a separate code for each guide use area.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? There has been a dramatic decline in the Dall sheep population in Units 12, 19, and 20. I think all sheep hunters should be on draw permit in these areas until the sheep population recovers to 75% of population from the last complete count done before year 2020. Once it has recovered it would then revert back to a general season open to all hunters. There is a possibility it will never reach this level again. 20% of the permits would be guaranteed to nonresidents and 10% of these permits would be issued to second-degree of kindred non-residents under a separate draw. The sheep in these areas need to be protected from over hunting which is obviously occurring with only a 50% success rate for guided nonresidents (normally 75% to 85%) and an 8% success rate for residents (normally 25-30%.) This will give the hunters that draw permits a much higher quality hunt and rebuild the ram population faster. The nonresident permits should be divided and issued to each guide use area in the units. The number of permits in each area should be determined by the department based on their survey counts.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery

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