



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR MICHAEL J. DUNLEAVY

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
Headquarters

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An Agenda Change Request (ACR 3) has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5 AAC 92.050(a). Required permit hunt conditions and procedures. The department submitted the ACR asking the board to allow the transfer of revoked Delta bison drawing permits from Regulatory Year (RY) 24 to RY26, and offers an alternative option of removing the lifetime and 10-year waiting period for those with revoked RY24 permits if the board chooses not to allow the transfer. Hunters would either be able to transfer their permits to RY26, or to apply again for nonresidents and again within 10 years for residents.

With respect to the board's Agenda Change Request (ACR) acceptance criteria (5 AAC 92.005):

- A. The department is unaware of any error in regulation.
- B. The department is unaware of any effects of regulations that were unforeseen when the regulation was adopted. Applicants are warned that hunts could be eliminated and that application fees may not be refunded, however the Delta bison hunt is unique in that it is highly sought after and as an accompanying bison-specific once-in-a-lifetime and once-every-10-year eligibility restriction for nonresidents and residents respectively.
- C. The department is unaware of any biological concerns associated with accepting this ACR. The ACR was submitted because the department revoked permits that had been awarded to prevent a conservation concern from occurring. Due to the timing of bison surveys and the attempt to manage the population within a very narrow window of abundance, the department announced more permit winners than was determined to be sustainable once surveys were completed. In addition, a significant natural mortality event occurred in spring 2024 further limiting available bison. High success rates and a need to spread winners out over the entire length of the season prevented the department from simply implementing a quota to limit harvest for the hunts.
- D. The department is unaware of any unforeseen or unexpected events that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses as defined in AS 16.05.258(f).
- E. The department is unaware of any unexpected resource situation that would cause a biologically allowable resource harvest to be precluded by delayed regulatory action.

The requested change will allow permit winners who were originally announced as winners but had their permits revoked due to conservation concerns the ability to hunt in RY26. Another option the ACR presents is the possibility of waiving the once-in-a-lifetime and once-every-10-year eligibility restriction so those with revoked permits can apply for bison hunts again.

The next regularly scheduled board meeting for Statewide Regulations is during winter/spring of 2027/2028. If the board accepts this ACR, the department recommends the proposal come before the board at its Statewide meeting in March to allow for more public input.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Scott", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ryan Scott
Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation