

PROPOSAL 10

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

Close Unit 9A to nonresident brown bear hunting as follows:

Close Game Management Subunit 9A to brown bear hunting by nonresidents (currently designated as registration permit hunts RB368 and RB370).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The brown bear population in the small portion of Unit 9A open to hunting is under likely significant hunting pressure. The Unit 9A hunting season should be closed to nonresidents in all regulatory years, odd and even, to protect that resource while still providing opportunity to residents.

Available ADF&G data on the number of permittees who reported hunting indicates increasing hunting pressure RY2011-RY2017 in Unit 9A, though it is decreasing in Unit 9 as a whole. Contrary to Unit 9 as a whole, Unit 9A reported brown bear kills have been increasing RY2011-RY2017. ADF&G has conducted no Unit 9A brown bear population or density surveys in recent decades.

In Unit 9A the number of permittees who reported hunting in RY2017 was substantially higher, an increase of 173.4% over those who reported hunting in Unit 9A in RY2011. Similarly, and also contrary to Unit 9 as a whole, Unit 9A reported harvest in RY2017 was substantially higher, up 157.5% from the RY2011 reported harvest.

Recent percentages of Unit 9A resident permittees range from 6-15% of the total Unit 9A permittees who reported hunting.

More analysis and information will be provided in proposal commentary if more data and reports are made available by ADF&G. No published summary harvest data is yet available from the fall 2023 hunt and the spring 2024 hunt will occur well after the deadline for these proposals.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? No.

PROPOSED BY: Wayne Hall

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