

PROPOSAL 52

5 AAC 92.530. Management Areas.

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

Create a new management area around MacColl Ridge in Unit 11, open to resident sheep hunting by registration permit only, as follows:

If adopted, the new regulation would appear under the sheep regulations of Unit 11, on page 71 as well as on page 69 as a management area and read as follows:

MacColl Ridge Management Area:

The area of Unit 11 North of the Chitina River, west of Canyon Creek, and south of Young Creek (MacColl Ridge): **Open to sheep hunting by registration permit only.**

RESIDENT SEASON: Aug. 10th to Sept. 20th

NONRESIDENT SEASON: **No open season**

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Create a new management area around MacColl Ridge open to sheep hunting by registration permit only, with **no open season for nonresidents.**

MacColl Ridge is an isolated set of mountains in the Chitina River drainage within Unit 11 and holds a small population of Dall sheep. Due to its close proximity to a hunting lodge specializing in sheep hunts, the majority of hunting pressure and harvest of sheep on MacColl Ridge is likely from guided nonresidents. At the present time, sheep populations around Alaska are severely depleted, areas are being shut down further limiting resident opportunity, and non-resident demand for hunts is at an all time high. There needs to be areas that give opportunity and preference to resident sheep hunters to hunt without the added competition and pressure from guided non-residents.

MacColl Ridge is an ideal location for this proposed regulation because: **1)** It's an easily defined land mark and boundary. **2)** It's one of the more accessible areas of unit 11 with ample landing spots to drop hunters. **3)** Takes very little opportunity from non-resident hunters, as they can freely hunt the remainder of Unit 11.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee? Coordination with other hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Jesse Dunshie

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