

PROPOSAL 105

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

Close Dall sheep hunting on the Kenai Peninsula in Units 7 and 15 as follows:

What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

5 AAC 85.055 should be amended so as to delete those parts of 5 AAC 85.055 which provide for any hunting of Dall Sheep in Units 7 and 15.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

The hunting of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula should be closed so that a sustainable population of Dall Sheep will be preserved on the Kenai Peninsula for future generations of Alaskans who wish to view these magnificent animals on the Kenai Peninsula. Department comments provided to the Board in 2023 indicated that the average harvest of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula, including Federal subsistence harvest, was six sheep per year and that the Round Mountain and Crescent Lake areas had not been open to harvest in recent years because of lack of legal rams. Department comments also indicated that the population of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula had declined by 80% since the 1960's. Nevertheless, the Department authorized continued hunting of the remnant populations of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula justifying its recommendation on the theory that hunting regulated by full curl management negated any concerns that hunting and harvest might negatively impact sheep population levels. The Department's theory is only a theory and it has not worked to restore the populations of these animals. It is time to try something new, namely no hunting or harvest. Hunters disturb these animals by hunting them. Hunters take the largest and strongest rams from the population. Dall Sheep hunting is trophy hunting, and many more Alaskans treasure these animals for viewing than Alaskans who harvest these animals on the Kenai Peninsula.

When and only if the populations of Dall Sheep on the Kenai Peninsula recover to numbers similar to those seen historically, hunting could be authorized at future Board meetings. It's time to see if the elimination of hunting will have a positive effect.

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

No.

PROPOSED BY: Kneeland Taylor

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