

PROPOSAL 106

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

Change the general season sheep hunts in Units 7 and 15 to registration hunts with hunt areas set by ADF&G 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

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Remainder of Unit 7 and Unit 15

Resident Hunters:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, **per lifetime of a hunter**, by youth hunt **registration permit**; Aug. 1-Aug. 5

or

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, **by registration permit only**; Aug. 10-Sept. 20

Nonresident Hunters:

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger, **per lifetime of a hunter**, by youth hunt registration permit; Aug. 1-Aug. 5

or

1 ram with full-curl horn or larger every 4 regulatory years, **by registration permit only** Aug. 10-Sept. 20

With registration permit boundaries to be set by ADF&G

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

Given the significant decline in the Kenai population of sheep, I believe it is critical to transition from a general harvest ticket hunt to a registration hunt system to better manage and protect the remaining animals. Historically, the maximum sheep count peaked at 2,191 in 1968; however, today the count has plummeted to just 351. Harvest data reflects this troubling trend: the average annual harvest has decreased from 31 sheep between 1985–2004, to 12 sheep from 2005–2014, and now only 7 sheep from 2015–2024. Despite increasingly restrictive regulations — evolving from a ¾ curl ram in 1960 to a full curl ram by 1989 — the population has continued to decline. Given these alarming numbers and the clear trajectory of population loss, a registration hunt structure would allow for tighter, more responsive management practices by allowing managers to close certain sub districts/subpopulations with low abundance, ensuring harvest levels are sustainable and aligned with conservation goals to better manage this population.

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

This proposal was developed with information ADF&G staff provided to the Homer Advisory Committee. The AC had other proposals that were being worked on and this did not make it on the agenda. I still think this is an important issue and should be considered by the board.

PROPOSED BY: Doug Mitke

(OI-F25-166)
