

PROPOSAL 205

5 AAC 85.030. Hunting seasons and bag limits for deer.

Change the season dates and bag limits for deer hunting in Unit 8, Ugak Bay, Saltery Cove and Rough Creek as follows:

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

Proposed Regulation – Kodiak Off-Road Accessible Areas (Ugak Bay, Saltery Cove, Rough Creek)

Season Dates and Bag Limits:

August 1 – October 31

Bag Limit: Three (3) bucks

Antler Restrictions: Any size

Legal Weapons: All legal hunting methods permitted

November 1 – November 30

Bag Limit: Three (3) adult deer

Antler Restrictions for Bucks: Minimum spike length of 3 inches

Harvest Restrictions: Harvest of nursing does and fawns prohibited

Legal Weapons: All legal hunting methods permitted

December 1 – December 31

Bag Limit: Three (3) adult deer

Antler Restrictions for Bucks: Minimum spike length of 3 inches

Legal Weapons: Muzzleloader or primitive weapons only

Youth and Hunters with Disabilities:

Bag Limit: Three (3) deer, any sex or age

Season Dates: August 1 – December 31

Legal Weapons: All legal hunting methods permitted

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

I'm writing to raise concern about the declining deer population in Kodiak's Ugak Bay, Saltery Cove, and Rough Creek—areas accessible by ATVs and UTVs. Since 2015, the rise of side-by-sides has allowed more hunters to access these regions, stay longer in colder months, and transport more gear and game. These small areas remain open to extended seasons and motorized access, resulting in increased harvest pressure. As mature deer become scarce, younger deer are being taken, reducing reproductive success and long-term sustainability. I urge the Board of Game to review regulations in these off-road accessible zones to help protect and restore the deer population yet maintain the season bag limits and duration so that residents and non residents can preserve the quality of hunt for the residents and nonresidents.

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

I've spoken with many hunters who use this area in the fall after the road system closes. While opinions vary on the best approach, there is broad agreement that action is needed to preserve the deer population and maintain quality hunting opportunities.

PROPOSED BY: Lucas Smith

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