

## **PROPOSAL 22**

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

Lengthen the hunting season for brown bear in Unit 4 as follows:

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

Unit 4 Brown / Grizzly Bear, Open Season: **September 1st** [September 15th] - December 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

Proposal to amend brown / grizzly bear season regulation in Unit 4.

This change has several positive effects on the resource and management.

The adjacent Unit 5 season is already September 1st - December 31st, this change will align the seasons.

Unit 4 is 40 bears below allocation for many years, a clear indication that the resource is both healthy and under harvested, supporting a change to a September 1st opening.

This will lead to less sow harvest. One of the primary indicators of lack of harvest opportunity is the harvesting of sows. Without enough opportunity to harvest mature boars, hunters not wanting to go home empty handed will harvest a sow, but when given more opportunity they are more selective.

Due to climate change, also known as global warming, the animals themselves and their food resources grow and behave differently. There are many more berries earlier in the year. Salmon runs are different. Bears in this unit tend to arrive and depart the streams much earlier than in the past.

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

I have coordinated with many others, all of whom have extensive field time, harvest, and care / concern for the management of brown bears in Unit 4. Additionally, I submitted this proposal via email to the local fish and game advisory committee.

**PROPOSED BY:** David Summers

(OI-F25-235)

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