

PROPOSAL 69

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Extend the grouse hunting season in Unit 3, to close June 15 instead of May 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 85.065 - Seasons and Bag Limits For Small Game

(1) Grouse - (spruce, blue, ruffed, sharp-tailed) Units 1-6 - 5 per day, 10 in possession

Aug 1 - May 15

In Unit 3 grouse maybe be taken Aug 1 - Jun 15 [MAY 15]

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

This proposal would extend grouse season in Unit 3, from May 15 through June 15. Unit 3 is made up of central Southeast islands that primarily contain sooty grouse. The vast majority of sooty grouse harvest and effort occurs in the spring when males are booming. Their “hoots” can be heard from long distances and hunters follow the sound to locate and harvest these males. Harvest of females happens more frequently near road systems in the fall when big game hunters are more active. Oftentimes the road systems of Unit 3 can remain impassable well into the spring which greatly impacts the ability of hunters to access grouse areas. Because of variable spring weather, access complexities and a very small, if any, increased take on females there is interest in leaving the season open longer to encompass more of the booming season. “Heavy hunting pressure is never exerted over a large enough area to be responsible for the widespread (population) changes.”
- ADF&G Sooty Grouse Profile

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

Developed myself during discussions with other grouse hunters.

PROPOSED BY: Kaleb Baird

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