

PROPOSAL 90 COMMENTS

I encourage the Board of Game to adopt Proposal 90, changing the goat hunt in Unit 13 D from a draw permit hunt (DG 720) to registration hunts. If they choose to do so, I also recommend that Unit 13D be divided into 3 different areas with 3 separate registration hunt numbers. These area boundaries should be as follows: from the Richardson Highway to Tazlina Glacier and Tazlina River; from the west side of Tazlina Glacier and Tazlina River to Matanuska Glacier with a line straight north to the Glenn highway; and from the west side of Matanuska Glacier to Coal Creek. There should be a separate harvest goal for each area. To be conservative I believe this harvest goal should be 5 goats in each of the 3 areas. I'm sure that in the future the Department will do further surveys and population estimates to adjust these harvest goals. Having 3 distinct registration areas will distribute the hunting pressure and the hunters throughout 13D, and prevent overharvest in any one area.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Clint Mayeur

Clint

Under AS 16.05.258(b)(4)(B), when a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses cannot be provided, those eligible to participate are determined based on scores that measure “the customary and direct dependence on the fish stock or game population by the subsistence user for human consumption as a mainstay of livelihood” and “the ability of the subsistence user to obtain food if subsistence use is restricted or eliminated.”

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The proposed evaluation criteria for eligibility in Unit 13 Tier II hunts would be amended into the current statewide criteria found in 5 AAC 92.070.

BACKGROUND:

Under AS 16.05.258(b)(4)(B), when a reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses cannot be provided, individual eligibility is determined based on “the customary and direct dependence on the fish stock or game population by the subsistence user for human consumption as a mainstay of livelihood” and “the ability of the subsistence user to obtain food if subsistence use is restricted or eliminated.” The intent of this proposal appears to be to eliminate the portion of 5 AAC 92.070 (the Tier II point system) that measures the second criteria, at 5 AAC 92.070(b) “the ability of the subsistence user to obtain food if subsistence use is restricted or eliminated.” In *State v. Manning* (Alaska 2007) the Alaska Supreme Court held that the questions used to score Tier II hunt applicants regarding “the ability to obtain food” did not violate the Supreme Court’s ruling against residency-based criteria and thus questions about where hunt applicants obtain food and gas in the regulation did not violate the Alaska Constitution. AS 16.05.258(b)(4)(B) requires that both factors be measured as part of the Tier II process.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is Neutral to the proposed changes to the statewide criteria through which hunting opportunity is allocated during Unit 13 Tier II hunts.

COST ANALYSIS:

Adoption of this proposal is expected to result in significant costs to the department in salaries and staff time to collect the extensive fisheries and wildlife data from all Alaskans who currently hunt and fish in Unit 13, and their family and friends, and all Alaskans who have hunted and fished in the unit for the past 60 years; to analyze and report the data; and to incorporate the data into the Tier II permit scoring system. The Board of Game would need to provide regulatory direction on the point values given to the new data.

PROPOSAL 90 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

PROPOSED BY: Clint Mayeur

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal seeks to convert the Unit 13D goat drawing hunt (DG720) to a registration hunt.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

- Resident hunters can take one goat by registration permit (RG580) from September 1–November 30 in the portion of 13D that is south of the Tiekel River and east of a line beginning at the confluence of the Tiekel and Tsina rivers.
- Resident hunters can take one goat by drawing permit (DG720) from August 10–September 20 in the remainder of Unit 13D.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal converts the drawing goat hunt in the remainder of 13D to a registration goat hunt. If the proposal is adopted goat hunting opportunity would be provided to everyone that registers for the hunt.

BACKGROUND: Due to infrequent or incomplete surveys, poor survey conditions, and challenges associated with conducting aerial wildlife surveys in montane habitats, it has been difficult to estimate the goat population for the central Chugach Mountains. An absence of consistent and comprehensive survey data makes detecting significant population trends difficult. However, the information available suggests that the goat population in Subunit 13D remains small and stable.

While carnivore predation on goats undoubtedly occurs, it is suspected that the mountain goat populations in Unit 13 are regulated primarily by winter weather. Goat population declines have been documented in Unit 13 following deep snowfalls.

Starting in 2011 drawing hunts DG718 and DG719 were combined to make a single drawing hunt, DG720. The majority of goat hunting in Subunit 13D occurs during the drawing hunt from August 10–September 20. Additional hunting occurs in a small portion of Subunit 13D in registration hunt (RG580) September 1–November 30.

Table 90-1. Hunt statistics for the Unit 13D drawing goat permit (DG720) and harvest, regulatory years 2009–2013.

Regulatory Year	Applicants	Permits	Hunted	Harvest
2009 ^a	372	35	16	8
2010 ^a	506	35	11	2
2011	573	35	14	8
2012	474	35	15	3
2013	492	50	22	10

^a The current hunt area for DG720 was managed as two separate drawing hunts (DG718 and DG719) prior to 2011.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **OPPOSED** to an unlimited registration hunt based on the current number of applicants applying for the drawing goat hunt in Unit 13D. The department does not have the ability to set an annual harvest quota for goats in this area due to the size of the area, weather conditions encountered, and staff time and budget constraints.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal is expected to result in additional costs to the department to obtain the population data required to set annual harvest quotas.

PROPOSAL 91 – 5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

PROPOSED BY: Aaron Bloomquist