

Proposal 131 - comments from Joe Klutsch P.1

- Written to address overharvest on portions of state land in unit 9E and reduce conflicts in the field to overcrowding / Lower quality of experience
- * • available staff data indicates decline in harvest in unit 9E but does not as yet include level of effort data.
- harvest data shows increase harvest of older age class males and females - missing cohort?
- harvest data ^{denning, Mortality} based on sealing certificate and uniform coding ~~unit~~ (UCU) is questionable. I does not accurately reflect harvest levels - between state and federal land
- 131 permit ^{drawing} attempts to address one unit 9E hotspot on state land which I have believed for 15 years to be a very real problem area but does not address other problem areas which once again, I believe are centered on state lands.
- * • The alternative staff proposal would shorten both the spring + fall season, throughout 9E, On federal lands the number of guides is limited through competitive process. Permits limit the number of clients ~~in~~ within the area. level of effort and harvest by non residents cannot have increased in the last 15 years. Federal agency post season reports

- Supported by state required hunt record information. The number of hunters, success rate and number of males + females harvested is included. State hunt records are considered confidential and there are no harvest specific data required by the DNR. Registration permit data is there but may not show land ownership specific harvest. I have not seen a compilation of this information.
- Harvest data showing increased take of females in the first half of spring season is not consistent with my years of Bear hunting experience. Sows usually appear later in the season.
- Decline in harvest may be due in part to less than favorable weather conditions making spotting and stalking nearly impossible - I also ~~do~~ know that successional plant growth (disidious shrubs) have increased dramatically in the last 20 years making locating Bears much more difficult. But, shoot a Moose and watch the Bears come coozing out of the Woodwork!! Just because you don't see them doesn't mean they are not there.
- I support 125 as amended, Support 126
Reject 131, 132, 144

Joe Klutsch

P, 3

Possible solutions:

- Drawing Permit - least desirable - only addresses one hot spot.
- Shorten Season - may not be required on federal lands where operations plans limit level of effort - would be beneficial to shorten season in the fall and set later season dates on state land.
- any person who harvests a female will not be able to hunt unit 9 for 12 ~~years~~ regulatory years
Encourage Selectivity - Take a closer look!
- Table proposal ~~wait~~ until we get accurate level of effort and state land - fed land specific data
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Primary Solutions:

- * • Implement Guide Outfitter Use Area (GOUA) System on State Land

Justification:

- Provides for spacial distribution of effort
- Reduces Conflicts in the field
- Improves Quality of Experience
- Greatly improves enforcement efforts
- Insures accountability
- Provides a Stewardship Incentive

Proposed System would:

- Provide an equal opportunity to access the system
- Competitive process to award permits
- Permits are of limited duration and are not saleable or transferable
- allows for predictable level of effort through operations plan
- * • provide level of effort and harvest data through ~~and~~ reporting requirements
- Designed to allow for different scales of operation
- Provides a Stewardship incentive
- Pays for itself through program receipts
- Benefits Resident Hunters