

PROPOSAL 53

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

Establish an archery only registration permit hunt for Dall sheep in the Interior and Eastern Arctic Region as follows:

In Units 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25 26B and 26C where there is a general sheep hunt by harvest ticket from August 10 through September 20, institute a registration conventional archery hunt for sheep, August 1 – August 9, with the same legal requirements for rams only full curl, double broomed or 8 years of age or older.

The purpose of requesting this to be a registration hunt is to allow assessment of the actual participation and success rates in this new hunt.

This would be limited to conventional archery gear only, so no crossbows or other primitive weapons. There is over thirty years of harvest data from archery sheep hunts in Unit 14C to support the very low success rate for conventional bowhunters on mature rams.

This would be for both resident and nonresident hunters. It would give opportunity for guides to sell additional hunts if they chose to guide bowhunters.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Alaska has very few specific bowhunting seasons by comparison with most other states, which have long conventional bowhunting seasons. Conventional bowhunting seasons provide significant additional opportunity for hunters to be afield and minimal harvest of the resource. Additional bowhunting seasons could provide increased hunter interest and participation as well as possible additional Alaska State and guide revenue.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaskan Bowhunters Association

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