

PROPOSAL 84

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

Extend the sheep season in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area within Units 24A, 25A, and 26B as follows:

Extending the season from September 20 – October 5 would provide additional opportunity for residents and nonresidents to hunt in a bow only area. This hunt would not help meet harvest objectives, this special opportunity would be an allocative issue, and it would provide additional opportunity to residents and nonresidents by extending their season (guides would be able to book additional hunts). Under full curl regulations the populations of legal rams could handle the additional harvest, with less than 1% (according to the department on the success rate of archers over the past ten years in general season Dall sheep hunts) archery success rate for all sheep in general areas, archers will not affect the breeding populations of sheep. Overharvest would not be an issue with limited success rate, and the regulation would be for the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area only.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Provide more special opportunities for Dall sheep hunters in the State of Alaska. There is continued user conflicts with user groups who prefer different weapons. Rifle/ muzzleloader hunters are out shooting/competing archers in general season Dall sheep hunts. Extending the Dall sheep general season in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area, an archery only area, would alleviate some user conflict and give more opportunity to residents and nonresidents. There are always legal rams that are not harvested in every range every year. This can be seen in the sealing data as there are always sheep over the age of eight that are harvested. Overharvest with limited success of archery equipment, and with current archery only area regulation in effect for these units, would not occur.

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