

PROPOSAL 85

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

Open an archery only registration sheep hunt in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area in Units 24A, 25A, and 26B as follows:

Open an archery only registration hunt September 20 – October 5, managed by ADF&G by emergency order. Or open the archery only registration hunt September 25 – October 5, managed by ADF&G by emergency order. This 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 ADF&G 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. This proposal would simply give hunters another opportunity to hunt sheep after the season elsewhere around the state have closed. With very limited success with archery equipment, this hunt would not affect the herd population at all.

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. Opening a registration Dall sheep hunt in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area, an archery only area, would alleviate some user conflict and give more opportunity to residents and nonresidents. This hunt would open up more time for archers to choose when they can go on the hunt and give guides more opportunity to book clients. 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 every. 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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