

PROPOSAL 93

5 AAC 92.044 Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

Expand the area in Unit 20D where brown bears can be taken over bait as follows:

In units 7, 11, 12, 13, 14A, 14B, 15, 16, 18, 19A, 19D, 20A, 20B, 20C, 20D north of the Tanana River **and between the Gerstle River and the Robertson River on the South side of the Tanana River.** 20E, 20F, 21C, 21D, 23, 24C, 24D, and 25D brown/grizzly bears may be taken at bear bait stations. Hunters must comply with seasons, bag limits, salvage, and sealing requirements for brown/grizzly bears (registration permits and locking-tags may be required in some areas, contact ADF&G for details)

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Currently in Unit 20D south of the Tanana River you are only allowed to take black bear over bait. The remainder of Unit 20D and the areas that border Unit 20D allow the take of grizzly bears over a registered bait. The grizzly population in the portion of Unit 20D not open to the take of grizzly bears over bait appears to be high. The numbers of grizzly bears on active baits sites in this area far outnumber any black bear. There is not a valid management reason to not allow the take of grizzly bears over bait in this area. The population of people in this area is far less than other areas of the state that already allow the baiting of grizzly bears. A registration hunt for grizzly bear over bait is one option (if the population of grizzly is of concern) and has been a success in places like the Kenai Peninsula, however, since the area is already a general hunt without a quota a registration hunt is probably not necessary. Another option is the entire area south of the Tanana River could be opened to the baiting of grizzly bears, this is a viable option but does include both Delta Junction and Ft. Greeley. If nothing is changed there will be practically no affective management of grizzly bears in the southern portion of Unit 20D.

PROPOSED BY: Ryan Johnson

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