

PROPOSAL 67

5 AAC 85.040. Hunting seasons and bag limits for goat.

Decrease the number of tags for the DG478 and DG479 goat hunts in Unit 8, to guarantee allocation of the weapons restricted, late season registration hunt as follows:

Decrease allocation of DG permits by 10-20 tags per hunt (or whatever reduction local game management believes would allow for five to ten RG478 and RG479 tags, respectively, per season) and guarantee an allocation of RG tags each year for the weapons restricted late season registration hunt.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? In the past, the RG478 and RG479 archery goat hunts reliably opened, but most of the last five years, they have been limited to no registration archery goat hunts during most seasons for the Kodiak road system. In the past, RG478 and RG479 were some of the only economical goat hunts for resident archery hunters in the state. Because of recent harvest success rates during the DG478 and DG479, the registration tags have not become as available, depriving hunters who prefer to hunt with archery equipment the chance to pursue goats without the risk associated with hunting the relatively small road system area while rifle hunters are also afield. (The risk of being shot over or at while stalking goats with a bow is real, not mention the more common scenario of rifle hunters spooking game at longer distances while archery hunters are stalking the same animals.)

Decreasing the number of tags awarded during DG478 and DG479 to ensure that the registration hunt can still happen would create the unique opportunity for resident hunters to pursue mountain goats in an economical way (i.e. without the need of air or water taxis or transporters) from the road system. Additionally, the limited efficacy of archery equipment would ensure that few goats would be harvested and the nature of the registration hunt would allow game managers to shut down the hunt if the desired number of goats were killed during the RG hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Paul Forward

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