

PROPOSAL 93

5 AAC 85.015. Hunting seasons and bag limits for black bear.

5 AAC 92.530. Management areas.

Allow certified bowhunters to participate in DL455 and DL457 black bear hunts in Unit 14C, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and McHugh Creek areas as follows:

Add certified bowhunters to applicants for drawing hunts DL455 and DL457.

“...(3) Unit 14(C), JBER Management Area 1 bear every regulatory year, by drawing permit Sept. 1 – June 15 Sept. 15 - June 15 only; by shotgun **and archery** only; (General hunt only) up to 25 permits may be issued Unit 14(C), that portion Sept. 1 - May. 31 known as the Anchorage (General hunt only) Management Area 1 bear by drawing permit only. shotgun, **archery**, or muzzleloader only; weekdays only; up to 20 permits may be issued in the McHugh Creek area and up to 20 permits may be issued in the Upper Campbell Creek area...”

The option to also hunt with a shotgun or shotgun/muzzleloader would remain unchanged, allowing for follow up shots (if needed). This solution presents arguably less wounding loss potential than archery-only hunts (e.g., DM424).

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Low participation and hunter success in Unit 14C black bear drawing hunts. The current regulations limit hunters to shotgun and shotgun/muzzleloader only in DL455/457, respectively. This deters a large pool of certified black bear archery hunters from applying to hunt this underutilized resource in an area that already has a successful archery hunt for moose.

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