

Proposal 109 was deferred by the Board of Game from the March 2024 Interior and Eastern Arctic Region meeting. It was previously published as Proposal 83.

PROPOSAL 109

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

Reopen sheep hunting in Unit 19C to nonresidents, by bow and arrow only, as follows:

Reinstate nonresident Dall sheep hunting in Unit 19 but by bow and arrow only as follows:

Unit 19

Nonresidents

BAG LIMIT: ONE RAM WITH FULL-CURL HORN OR LARGER EVERY 4 REGULATORY YEARS BY BOW AND ARROW ONLY

SEASON DATES: AUG 10 - SEPT 20

[No open season]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? I believe a solution to continue nonresident sheep hunting opportunity while also reducing the take would be to allow hunting by bow and arrow only. The Board of Game recently closed sheep hunting to nonresidents in Unit 19 due to perceived ideas of hunter impact by locals. The department evidence did not support that nonresident sheep hunters who were limited to one full curl ram every four years, were the reason for sheep population decline in Unit 19. The department cited that weather was the driving factor in the sheep decline. I feel that taking away hunting opportunity in this case is not solving anything and is also potentially hurting outfitters in the area for no good reason.

Bringing back the nonresident season, but limiting the take to bow and arrow only would accomplish three things. First, it would bring back the opportunity to pursue mature rams and allow guides to continue offering sheep hunts. Second, the take would be extremely minimal due to the challenges of hunting sheep with archery equipment, therefore accomplishing the original goal of limiting harvest numbers. Third, this would be a great opportunity to build a record and data of how bowhunting can be used as a valuable management tool that can save hunting opportunities while at the same time not making a negative impact on game populations.

This data could also be used to revisit this topic in the next Board of Game cycle for this area.

PROPOSED BY: Mike Harris

(EG-F23-299)
