

PROPOSAL 63

5 AAC 85.065. Hunting seasons and bag limits for small game.

Require a registration permit to hunt ptarmigan in Units 13B and 13E as follows:

Units and Bag Limits (3)	Resident Open Season (Subsistence and General Hunts)	Nonresident Open Season
...		
Unit 13(B) 10 per day 20 in possession, <u>by registration permit only;</u>	Aug. 10–Feb. 15	Aug. 10–Feb. 15
...		
Unit 13(E) 10 per day 20 in possession, <u>by registration permit only;</u>	Aug. 10–Feb. 15	Aug. 10–Feb. 15
...		

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

Ptarmigan hunting in Alaska is a very popular activity for both subsistence and non-subsistence users. Data from voluntarily submitted hunter harvested wings suggest Unit 13B is one of the most popular, if not the most popular, subunits to hunt ptarmigan in terms of the number of hunters that successfully harvested ptarmigan. Despite this popularity, there is no requirement for small game hunters to report on their harvest and all harvest data available is voluntarily submitted, with a few exceptions in state game refuges or management areas near urban areas.

Although voluntarily submitted harvest information is helpful to ADF&G, biologists have very limited ability to collect data on the total number of small game hunters from year to year or annual harvest rates. Previous efforts to collect data through hunter surveys (2012–2013) from the large number of resident and non-resident hunters that had multiple license purchase options (e.g., resident hunting, resident hunting and trapping, non-resident small game, non-resident hunting, non-resident military hunting, non-resident military hunting and trapping, etc.) were hampered by low hunter response rates (11–30%) and the need to sample from all license purchase options to obtain a meaningful data set.

A registration permit for hunting ptarmigan in Unit 13B would provide important data from an area that receives heavy hunting pressure, has limited participation in voluntarily submitted harvest information, and has historically experienced multiple regulatory changes resulting from proposals submitted by members of the public and local advisory committees.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game (HQ-F24-076)
