

ACR #13 – Modify the nonresident drawing permits for Dall sheep in Unit 14C.

SUBMITTED BY: Dan Montgomery

CITE THE REGULATION THAT WILL BE CHANGED IF THIS ACR IS HEARD.

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

WHAT IS THE PROBLEM YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS? STATE IN DETAIL THE NATURE OF THE CURRENT PROBLEM.

The board passed proposal 149 that I submitted at the statewide meeting in March of this year. The proposal was to create a separate draw for 2nd degree of kindred (2DK) hunters for sheep where there was a allocation for nonresidents. In Unit 14C the proposal was to take DS236 Ship Creek and convert it to a 2DK permit. The Ship Creek unit has the largest sheep population and the best access and this permit is at the start of the season. It has a total of three nonresident permits in all. One for each of the three 13-day seasons with eight resident permits in each season.

The department instead converted DS224 in the Hunter creek unit into the 2DK permit which is now DS024. This is the only nonresident permit for the Hunter Creek unit for the year and now guides have no access to this area at all for non-residents. I have no idea why the department did this. The department also eliminated DS233 in the Eagle River unit and it was the only nonresident permit in that unit. Now there is no nonresident permits at all in this unit. Loosing these two permits and access to these areas is devastating for guides in this unit. These two units generally have the largest sheep in them.

I proposed the regulation back in the mid-2000's that the board adopted, that limits nonresidents to 13.5% of the total number of permits issued in Unit 14C for sheep. It is supposed to be implemented so there is at least one permit in each of the units every year for nonresidents. That is the way it was implemented until this year. [REDACTED] were the area biologists when this regulation was adopted.

The department also did not convert one of the three DS240 archery only nonresident permits to a 2DK only permit. I can understand their thinking on this because it would be above the 20% max threshold for these four permits but I think it should still implemented.

WHAT SOLUTION DO YOU PREFER?

I prefer the department convert the permits of the original proposal to 2DK that the board adopted and issue at least one permit for each of the four rifle permit areas. They are Unit 14C Northwest, 14C Northeast, 14C Upper Eagle River and 14C Southwest.

STATE IN DETAIL HOW THIS ACR MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1) To correct an error in regulation.

I think this applies because there is a error in how the regulation was implemented and not issuing the Archery only 2DK permit.

- 2) **To correct an effect of a regulation that was unforeseen when a regulation was adopted.**

I think this also applies because the regulation was not implemented properly as the board had adopted it.

- 3) **Does the request identify a biological concern for the population or a threat to meeting objectives for the population?**

Does not apply.

- 4) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected event or effect that would otherwise restrict or reduce a reasonable opportunity for customary and traditional wildlife uses, as defined in AS 16.05.258(f)?**

Does not apply.

- 5) **Does the request identify an unforeseen, unexpected resource situation where a biologically allowable resource harvest would be precluded by delayed regulatory action and such delay would be significantly burdensome because the resource would be unavailable in the future?**

I think this applies because the older full curl sheep might die in the winter or get harvested without guides having access to hunt them. The permits can't be allocated the next year and there is no opportunity for guides to make up for this lost opportunity.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED PRIOR TO THE REGULAR CYCLE?

STATE WHY YOUR ACR IS NOT PREDOMINANTLY ALLOCATIVE.

IF THIS REQUEST IS ALLOCATIVE, STATE THE NEW INFORMATION THAT COMPELS THE BOARD TO CONSIDER AN ALLOCATIVE PROPOSAL OUTSIDE OF THE REGULAR CYCLE.

STATE YOUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE ISSUE THAT IS THE SUBJECT OF THIS ACR.

STATE WHETHER THIS ACR HAS BEEN CONSIDERED BEFORE, EITHER AS A PROPOSAL OR AS AN ACR, AND IF SO, DURING WHICH BOARD OF GAME MEETING.