

In regard to proposal 107 – 5 ACC 85.020 Brown Bear Season and Bag Limits.

I am Greg Bell, I have lived in Soldotna for the past 50 years. I have spent a lot of time in Unit 16b, hunting trapping and fishing. I co- own High Adventure Air Charter, and for the past 30 years have flown into unit 16b with fisherman, hunters, and bear viewers. I am a commercial user as well as a private user. I am very concerned about the decreasing number of brown bear in the Redoubt Bay area. We spend a lot of time during the summer in the Big River Lakes area, fishing and viewing bears. Over the past 5 years we have noticed a lot fewer brown bear in this area. I am afraid if something isn't done soon we may not have any brown bear to view in the future.

The current hunting season seems much too long, and the limit of two bears per season much too liberal. I would like to propose going back to shorter seasons and one bear every two years.

The current one mile buffer of a no hunt zone around Wolverine Creek needs to be expanded. Hunting this close to a very popular bear viewing area is not fair chase and is definitely not what the hunting industry in Alaska is about. Precedence has been set in other popular bear viewing areas such as McNeil River. I have been a big game guide for over 20 years and feel that this would be a much more ethical way to manage a unique area such as Wolverine Creek.

I want to close by saying that I appreciate the great state that we live in and the good job that the board does in managing our many resources. I would hope that they would take a closer look at the actual number of bear in this portion of 16b and manage this area in the best interest of all users.

Thank you for your consideration,
Greg Bell
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