

Note: Proposal 188 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Statewide Regulations meeting scheduled for March 2025.

PROPOSAL 188

5 AAC 92.050. Required permit hunt conditions and procedures.

Award DI403 and DI404 permit recipients whose tags were cancelled on July 24, 2024 the same hunting permits for an upcoming season, and develop a plan with ADF&G to ensure late season changes do not impact hunters as follows

The preference would be awarding these cancelled tags during an upcoming hunting season. I would also encourage the Board of Game to work with ADF&G to develop a plan to ensure late season changes do not leave hunters who were expecting and planning to hunt a particular unit or species hanging. Successful hunting in Alaska requires extensive planning, especially for those who do not have access to motorized means of transportation.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? The Board of Game should consider addressing the cancelled DI403 and DI404 permits that were cancelled on July 24, 2024. This cancellation happened after impacted hunters were contacted by ADF&G to congratulate hunters and encourage hunters to begin their planning process. Some hunters were given the opportunity to hunt this season while approximately half of hunters were not given this opportunity.

Every year both resident and nonresident hunters enter the draw application period with the hope of drawing a tag. In 2024, tags for DI403 and DI404 were awarded in February. In April, ADF&G emailed tag winners congratulating them and encouraging them to plan their hunt. In late July of 2024 they again contacted winners and announced that roughly half the tags were being cancelled. The timing of this is problematic because hunting in Alaska, especially for those who do not own airplanes and boats requires significant planning, additionally, me and other hunters who were planning this once in a lifetime hunt had already made significant financial investment in this hunt with the purchase of new gear, ensuring rifles met the hunt requirements, etc. Addressing how this situation will be rectified will give hunters better information and the ability to plan. Unfortunately, I and other cancelled permit holders will not have this information prior to the draw application period.

This seeks to address how tags were cancelled after they were awarded during the November 2023 draw application period for the 2024 hunting season.

If this problem is not solved prior to the regular meeting cycle, hunters who had their tags cancelled will not be eligible to bison hunt.

PROPOSED BY: Lang Van Dommelen

(HQ-F24-ACR2)
