

Dear Board of Game Members,

I send this letter in hopes for reconsideration of Prop 206.

I personally attended and testified at the BOG meeting in Dillingham when it was noted that there were conservation concerns for the bears in Unit 9. As a guide who spends a lot of time in Unit 9 I concurred that the number of bears observed was defiantly down from previous years and supported the shortening of the spring and fall seasons for all users. Now, four years later, these conservation concerns have not went away. The bear numbers seem to be slowly rebounding, but during the past four years there was circumstances that allowed additional harvest. F&G conducted a resident only spring bear season in 2020, plus allowed the normal 2020 spring season for residents and non-residents to take place in 2021. These back to back spring seasons, along with a 2021 fall season allowed more than normal harvest opportunities in Unit 9. The factors that Covid produced allowed a definite increase in harvest from what there would have been without the Covid season adjustments.

Now, with the passage of Proposal 206 the BOG is going to increase harvest by allowing the residents to hunt during the most opportune time of the year to harvest bears. The last week of May offers many advantages to harvest a bear. During this time of year it is the peak of the rut, the days are longer, and the weather is usually better. This is also when large barren sows are the most visible and susceptible to harvest, as they are all out of the den and looking for a mate. If Prop 206 is allowed to pass we will defiantly be seeing conservation concerns in years to come.

Brown Bears are a very slow population recovering species and I urge the BOG to move with caution before extending seasons, especially since we have already experienced an additional spring season since it was noted in 2017 by ADFG that there was conservation concerns.

As a guide who has personally guided 173 Brown/Grizzly bears, and spends almost 5 months a year guiding and observing bears, I do not make these claims without some experience and background.

Thanks

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Master Guide 221