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Advisory Announcement

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GMU 1D 2025 Brown Bear Hunting Season Update

(Juneau) – ADF&G managers are increasing the guideline harvest limit for brown bears in GMU 1D. The guideline harvest limit will increase to 7 total brown bears (maximum of 5 females). Total documented human-caused mortality, averaged over 3 years, shall not exceed 4% of the population estimate, allowing for 12 human-caused brown bear deaths. To reiterate, the total human-caused mortality limit is 12 bears, 7 bears are allocated to harvest and 5 to other human-caused mortalities with a maximum of 5 females from any human-caused mortality. ADF&G researchers GPS collared and tracked brown bears (55F:32M) between 2018–2024 while collecting genetic information on bears and have an updated population estimate for brown bears in GMU 1D, which is 307 ± 31 bears, 95% CI [258–365]. This updated population estimate follows a record high morality which resulted in an estimated 16–20% reduction of the brown bear population.

During 2020, forty-nine brown bears (24F: 23M: 2 Unk) were killed in GMU 1D, including 19 harvested by hunters (9F: 10M) and 30 non-hunt kills (15F: 13M: 2 Unk). Non-hunt kills are classified into agency kills, defense of life and property, and vehicle collisions. ADF&G developed a plan to recover the brown bear population while providing sustainable hunting opportunity. Beginning in spring 2021, ADF&G temporarily reduced total human-caused mortality (hunting and bear-human conflict) through a harvest cap of 5 total brown bears including no more than 2 females in a calendar year. There was also an increased effort towards educational outreach by ADF&G and our partners.

The brown bear population research in GMU 1D indicates the population has increased since 2020, and we believe the population can now withstand a higher sustainable harvest limit. Hunters are encouraged to target male brown bears to sustain future hunting opportunity.

For additional information concerning brown bear hunting in Game Management Unit 1D, contact Hannah Manninen at (907) 465-4329.

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