

Adaptive Management Proposed Rule Changes for Unit F on Kauaʻi

What is adaptive management?

Adaptive management allows natural resource managers to implement effective management tools in response to rapidly changing resource conditions. In 2021, the Hawaiʻi legislature authorized DLNR to adopt, amend, or repeal any hunting rule pertaining to bag limits, size limits, open or closed hunting seasons, or gear restrictions by formal Land Board action at a publicly noticed meeting (HRS § 183D-3(b)). Typically, the administrative rule change process takes about one year or more to complete. The adaptive management authority allows DOFAW wildlife managers to respond more quickly when there are signs that protected resources are being impacted by increased game populations or to restrict hunting where game populations need time to recover. Under the adaptive management authority, the Land Board may approve administrative rules proposed by DOFAW, and 10 days after approval, those administrative rules would become law effective for 2 years. An extension of administrative rules initially approved by the Land Board through the adaptive management process beyond 2 years requires legislative approval and board renewal for up to one year at a time.

Unit F on Kauaʻi:

Current rule:

Game Mammals to be Taken	Means of Take	Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
Feral pigs and feral goats.	Archery or dog and knife only. ¹	Two goats per hunter per day	February through May	Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, Mondays, and State Holidays	Hunting with firearms prohibited
	Archery only. Dogs not permitted.	Two goats per hunter per day	July through August		Limited to hunters with valid goat archery permits. Hunting with firearms prohibited.

¹ Dogs must be kept under control at all times except when actively pursuing game.

Game Mammals to be Taken	Means of Take	Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
	Muzzleloaders only. Dogs not permitted.	Two goats per hunter per day	January and June		Permit required. ²

Proposed rule effective for 2 years starting 10 days from approval by the Land Board:

Game Mammals to be Taken	Means of Take	Bag Limits	Open Hunting Periods	Open Hunting Days	Special Conditions and Restrictions
Feral goats.	Archery or dog and knife only. ³	Two goats per hunter per day	February through May	Daily	Hunting with firearms prohibited
	Archery only. Dogs not permitted.	Two goats per hunter per day	July through August		Limited to hunters with valid goat archery permits. Hunting with firearms prohibited.
	Muzzleloaders only. Dogs not permitted.	Two goats per hunter per day	January and June		Permit required. ⁴

² Hunters must obtain a permit from the Lihue Division of Forestry and Wildlife Office prior to hunting. Game permit-tag fees may be assessed for these hunts. Unit G permits are limited to 30 permits per day on a first come-first served basis. A camping permit from the Division of State Parks is required for over night trips in Unit G.

³ Dogs must be kept under control at all times except when actively pursuing game.

⁴ Hunters must obtain a permit from the Lihue Division of Forestry and Wildlife Office prior to hunting. Game permit-tag fees may be assessed for these hunts. Unit G permits are limited to 30 permits per day on a first come-first served basis. A camping permit from the Division of State Parks is required for over night trips in Unit G.