



# ALASKA SHEEP HUNTER SURVEY

## *Resident Sheep Hunter Responses*

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### Summary

In recent years, the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) has received an increasing number of proposals from the public to alter the management and regulation of Dall sheep hunting. Most of these proposals reported a decline in the quality of sheep hunts because of increased crowding and conflict between resident hunters, nonresident hunters, and commercial operators (professional guides, transporters, air taxis) providing services to sheep hunters. I was contracted by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) in January 2014 to collect information for the BOG to use when considering changes to sheep hunting regulations. I conducted focus-group discussions with various interest groups (sheep hunters, commercial operators, ADF&G biologists) to better understand the sheep hunting system and clarify the type and range of issues important to interest groups. Essentially, focus-group discussions helped me design a survey that asked the right questions the right way to meet study objectives. I used a systematic and scientific approach to administer two surveys (sheep hunter, commercial services) that collected information on attitudes and behaviors of sheep hunters and commercial operators related to BOG sheep proposals. Any person that hunted sheep, received a sheep harvest ticket, or applied for a sheep drawing permit during the last 5 years (2009-2013) was eligible to receive a survey. I sent questionnaires to a sufficient sample of people to provide results with acceptable levels of statistical confidence ( $\pm 5\%$ ). To maintain the same statistical confidence for the commercial services survey, I sent questionnaires to all commercial operators providing services to sheep hunters during the last 5 years. The survey questionnaire was designed to answer three questions:

- 1) *Is there a sheep hunting problem?*
- 2) *Why is there a sheep hunting problem?*
- 3) *How might sheep hunting be improved?*

I received a low survey response rate (9%) from people that have not hunted sheep in the last 5 years. Therefore, I focused my analysis on people that have hunted sheep during the last 5 years. I analyzed responses from 698 resident sheep hunters (1,889 sampled = 37% response rate), 70 commercial operators (140 sampled = 50% response rate), and 269 nonresident sheep hunters (522 sampled = 52% response rate). ***This report focused mainly on resident hunter responses.*** Characteristics of resident respondents, such as where they reside or hunt sheep, were relatively representative of a statewide cross-section of sheep hunters. Approximately 74% of resident hunters agreed or strongly agreed that sheep hunter crowding was a problem in either Alaska overall or the mountain range that is most important to them. Resident hunters most strongly agreed that the cause of the problem was related to the influence of commercial operators, nonresident hunters, and fewer legal sheep available for harvest. To reduce sheep hunting pressure and crowding, resident sheep hunters approved of several potential changes to the management and regulation of sheep. The options of potential changes that hunters chose from were identified during focus-group discussions and based on recommendations provided by the BOG. Adding percentages for all resident hunters that approved or strongly approved, these changes included:

- Reduce sheep permit allocation to nonresidents hunting with professional guides (77%)
- Increase sheep tag fees for nonresidents (73%)

- Reduce sheep permit allocation to nonresidents hunting with second-degree kindred residents (64%)
- Prohibit spotting sheep from an aircraft to facilitate sheep hunting during the hunting season (54%)
- Create more drawing hunts for sheep (52%)
- Reduce motorized access in sheep hunting areas (48%)

A strong majority of commercial operators (84%) agreed or strongly agreed that sheep hunter crowding was a problem in either Alaska overall or in the range most important to them. A minority of nonresident survey respondents (35%) agreed that sheep hunter crowding was a problem. Commercial operators (majority of responses were from guides) most strongly agreed that the cause of the crowding problem was related to the influence of transporters and air taxis, guides, and fewer legal rams available for harvest. To reduce sheep hunting pressure and crowding, commercial operators most strongly approved of the following potential changes to the management and regulation of sheep:

- Increase sheep tag fees for resident hunters (74%)
- After harvesting a sheep, a hunter must wait 3 years before sheep hunting again (74%)
- Reduce sheep permit allocation to nonresidents hunting with second-degree kindred residents (63%)
- Increase sheep tag fees for nonresidents (62%)
- Limit hunters to 1 sheep hunting permit every 3 years (60%)
- Prohibit spotting sheep from an aircraft to facilitate sheep hunting during the hunting season (59%)
- Reduce motorized access in sheep hunting areas (53%)

The sheep hunter and commercial operator surveys provided stakeholders with an opportunity to contribute their thoughts to the sheep management process. Results from this survey established a scientific-information baseline for comparison with future statewide evaluations of sheep hunter perceptions. Lastly, findings from this survey will serve as a decision-making resource for the BOG.

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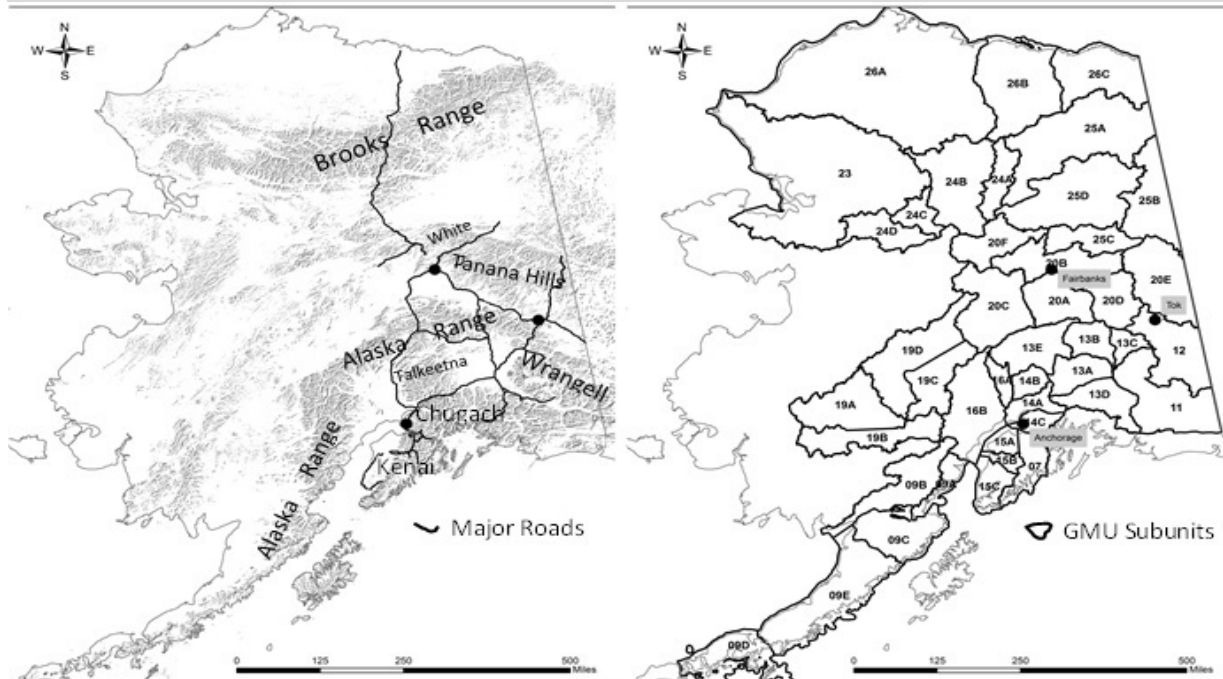
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## **Introduction**

### ***Background***

Dall sheep (*Ovis dalli dalli*) are a highly prized Alaska game species generally pursued by a relatively small but passionate percentage of hunters that enjoy challenging mountain hunting in remote areas. In some rural Alaska communities (Fig. 1), Dall sheep are an important subsistence resource. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) harvest database, an annual average of 1,800 Alaska residents and 450 nonresidents hunted sheep during the last 5 years (2009-2013). During that period, resident harvest has averaged 450 sheep, and nonresident harvest has averaged roughly 300 sheep. Approximately 80% of Alaska sheep hunters are Alaska residents and they take approximately 60% of the annual harvest. The harvest success rate of nonresidents (67%) is about 2.7 times higher than residents (25%). Most Alaska sheep harvest occurs under a general harvest hunt (resident = 78%, nonresident = 91%) – the basic hunt where you buy a license, get a harvest ticket, and follow general season dates and bag limits. The remaining harvest occurs under drawing hunts (application fee and limited permits awarded by lottery) with a small percentage (<1%) being harvested under registration (hunt closed after harvest goals are met) or federal subsistence permits (available only to federally qualified subsistence users hunting on federal public lands). Hunters use several methods of transportation to reach their hunt area. The most common methods are airplane, ATV (e.g., 4-wheeler), and highway vehicle. However, because of the remoteness of sheep habitat, roughly 60% of harvest is taken by hunters using airplanes for access. Across most of the state, the sheep hunting season is open from August 10 through September 20.

Figure 1. Major mountain ranges and ADF&G Game Management Unit (GMU) subunits containing sheep hunts.



Dall sheep are also considered an important economic resource to the State of Alaska. A study contracted by the Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) indicated that State revenue in 2012 from sheep tags purchased by guided nonresident and alien (not US citizens) hunters totaled \$183,900 (McDowell Group 2014). In addition to license and tag revenue, many professional big-game guides, air transporters, and air taxis (hereafter referred to jointly as commercial operators; see BGCSB 2014 for details) generate significant income by providing services to sheep hunters. Nonresident sheep hunters are required to use a guide unless they are hunting with an Alaska resident that is second-degree of kindred (e.g., brother, stepfather). A nonresident can obtain a Big Game Commercial Services license and guide nonresident sheep hunters in Alaska. The price of guided sheep hunts range between \$10,000 and \$20,000 per hunter. The price of an air transporter ranges between \$1,000 and \$3,000 per hunter. The appeal of an Alaska sheep hunt is illustrated each year is by the ADF&G-administered auction of two Dall sheep permits. The auction generates funds for nonprofit hunting and conservation organizations and for state wildlife research and management. In recent years, Dall sheep permits have been auctioned for as much as \$180,000.

Surveys of sheep population status and trends have been conducted on an irregular basis in most of sheep range in Alaska. Sheep population size fluctuates through time and is influenced by a variety of factors including predation, weather, habitat conditions, and hunter harvest levels. An updated comprehensive summary of Dall sheep population dynamics and harvest trends was prepared by ADF&G to complement this report (DOWC 2014). The report summarizes ADF&G's knowledge of Dall sheep trends from the 1970s to the present.

### ***Problem Statement***

In recent years, Alaska residents have voiced increased dissatisfaction with Dall sheep hunting and harvest opportunities. This concern has been documented and supported by an increasing number of proposals being submitted by the public to the Alaska Board of Game (BOG). The BOG is charged with making allocative and regulatory decisions to conserve and develop Alaska's wildlife resources. Many of the proposals have noted that the quality of sheep hunting has declined because of unacceptable levels of crowding, competition, and conflict among resident sheep hunters, nonresident sheep hunters, and commercial operators providing services to sheep hunters. To solve this problem, most proposals have suggested changes in sheep hunting season dates, permit allocation, and harvest limits (Appendix A).

### ***Research Need***

The BOG and ADF&G have acknowledged that sheep hunter concerns need to be addressed. However, the BOG also expressed concern that they have insufficient information to effectively evaluate sheep hunter concerns and make informed and defensible regulatory decisions. For example, the BOG does not know if the concerns, perceptions, opinions, and management suggestions noted in the proposals mentioned above are representative of the majority or minority of Alaska residents that hunt sheep. The perspectives of other interest groups, such as nonresident sheep hunters and commercial operators also have not been systematically evaluated.

## ***Research Objectives***

I was contracted by ADF&G in January 2014 to conduct a scientific survey (reliable, valid, representative, repeatable, and generalizable (Vaske 2008)) that addressed information needs related to BOG proposals submitted by Alaska sheep hunters and others interested in Alaska sheep management and regulation. I designed the survey to collect information on the characteristics, attitudes, norms, and behaviors of sheep hunters and commercial operators. In addition, the survey collected information on hunter and commercial operator approval or disapproval of potential changes for improving sheep hunting opportunities, harvest opportunities, and regulations. The survey assessed three key questions through three primary objectives:

- 4) ***Is there a sheep hunting problem?*** Determine if the concerns expressed in BOG proposals are shared by a large and representative sample of sheep hunters and commercial operators.
- 5) ***Why is there a sheep hunting problem?*** If sheep hunter concerns are prevalent, explore characteristics that may be related to concerns and quantify the extent of hunter satisfaction or dissatisfaction with important aspects related to the quality of sheep hunting.
- 6) ***How might sheep hunting be improved?*** Identify actions that may help address the concern by quantifying the extent of hunter approval or disapproval of potential changes to sheep hunting regulations and management.

This survey was designed to provide a resource to the BOG and ADF&G to use when developing regulations for the management and allocation of sheep. This effort also engaged interest groups in the research process and provided a new stream of communication between hunters, commercial operators, and decision makers. This study aimed to improve the sheep management environment for decision makers by expanding the information base on interest groups. The sheep management environment also may improve for interest groups by enhancing their understanding, evaluation, and influence on factors informing decision making.

## **Methods**

This research was conducted by the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF) and was funded by ADF&G. This study was approved by UAF Office of Research Integrity's Institutional Review Board (IRB# 554304-1). IRB reviews each UAF study proposal that involves human participants to confirm that the research adheres to basic ethical principles of conduct.

### ***Focus-group discussions***

In collaboration with ADF&G, my first step was to identify relevant interest groups. I considered interest groups to be people, groups, or organizations that can affect or that are affected by sheep hunting regulations and management in Alaska. I invited members from interest groups to participate in focus-group discussions. Focus-group discussions are semi-structured interviews that stimulated thinking and elicit ideas on a particular subject (Vaske 2008). I conducted focus-group discussions with 120 individuals. Focus groups generally consisted of 2-3 individuals at a time. Focus-group participants were members of several sheep-hunting interest groups including (in alphabetical order): Alaska Board of Game, Alaska Chapter of the Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, ADF&G, Alaskan Bowhunters Association, Alaska Outdoor Council, Alaska Professional Hunters Association, Alaska resident sheep hunters, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, Big Game Commercial Services Board, commercial operators providing services to sheep hunters, Federal Subsistence Management Regional Advisory Councils, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, Local Fish and Game Advisory Committees, and

nonresident sheep hunters. Participants did not identify specific locations of the advisory councils and committees that they served. Focus-group discussions helped me finalize research objectives, better understand the sheep hunting system, and clarify the type and range of issues important to interest groups. Further, focus groups helped me to inform the public of the intentions of the survey and to engage interest groups in the research process. The latter improves survey response rate and public understanding and acceptance of results. Participants resided in urban areas, rural areas connected to road, and rural areas off the road system. For logistical reasons, I conducted focus-group discussions at locations connected to the road network. However, I also connected with residents living off the road network through telephone conferences. The information I collected during focus-group discussions was used to develop and concentrate a survey questionnaire that would be administered to a large and representative sample of sheep hunters and commercial operators. Essentially, focus-group discussions helped me design a survey that asked the right questions the right way to meet study objectives. However, it should be noted that the small sample size and open-ended nature of the data collected during focus-group discussions limited the representativeness and generalizability of this technique (Vaske 2008). Therefore, qualitative data collected during focus groups was considered exploratory, rather than conclusive.

### ***Questionnaire***

Using information collected from focus-group discussions, BOG proposals, agency hunter databases, and harvest and management reports, I designed two survey questionnaires: a sheep hunter survey and a commercial operator survey. Prior to administering the formal surveys, I pre-tested a draft of the questionnaire on all focus-group participants, additional federal and state agency biologists, and additional sheep hunters with a wide range of hunting experience to better capture input from a representative sample. During the pretest, I asked reviewers to give special attention to the following questions:

- Did the survey hit the target and effectively address important sheep hunter issues?
- What important questions were missing?
- What questions could or should be removed?
- Is the wording clear and understandable to a typical sheep hunter?
- Do any questions seem biased or loaded?

I received feedback and comments on the first draft of the questionnaires from approximately 40 reviewers. Based on input, I revised the questionnaires accordingly into a formal Alaska Sheep Hunter Survey questionnaire (Appendices B & C) that consisted of 45 primary questions and a formal Alaska Sheep Commercial Services Survey questionnaire (Appendix D) that consisted of 37 questions. The formal questionnaires addressed each objective described above and included three general sections:

1. Hunter or commercial operator characteristics (e.g., demographics) & behaviors.
2. Hunter or commercial operator attitudes toward current sheep hunting regulations and management.
3. Hunter or commercial operator attitude toward potential changes to sheep hunting regulations and management.

The questionnaires included multiple choice, matrix of choices, ranking, and rating questions that facilitated quantification of responses.

### ***Study Population***

ADF&G and the BOG jointly determined who would be included in the study population. Their intention was to cast a wide net and allow many different interest groups to participate. Ultimately, the study

population included Alaska residents and nonresidents that either have hunted sheep, received a sheep harvest ticket, or applied for sheep permit between 2009 and 2013. The study population also included commercial operators (guides, transporters, and air taxis) providing a service to sheep hunters between 2009 and 2013. ADF&G and members participating in focus-group discussions suggested that there has been an increase in the number of “disenfranchised” hunters. Disenfranchised hunters were described as people that were active sheep hunters in the past (e.g., >5-10 years ago) that have decreased their participation in sheep hunting because of frustration with the quality and management of sheep hunts in Alaska. ADF&G suggested that many of these disenfranchised hunters may not hunt unless they draw a sheep permit. This was the primary reason that the study population was expanded to anyone that applied for sheep drawing permit. Including sheep permit applicants that haven’t hunted sheep in the last 5 years significantly increased the size of the study population from 7,842 to 29,091 people.

I quantified the study population using the following sources: ADF&G’s database on sheep hunters and sheep hunt applicants, which is based on hunting license and harvest information; and Alaska Dept. of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development’s (ADCC&ED) records on activities of licensed big game guides and transporters. Because air taxis do not specifically document or report services provided to sheep hunters, air taxi operators were compiled through focus-group discussions and additional phone interviews with commercial operators. Hunter and commercial operator information was received under the following conditions:

- The information will be used for the sole purpose of researching the demographics and opinions of Alaska sheep hunters and Commercial operators.
- The information will not be released outside of UAF except to persons in a contractual relationship with UAF who will be performing work for or on behalf of the UAF, on a need-to-know basis, in which case UAF will require the contractors to agree to and abide by the conditions in this document.
- Personal information (names and addresses or unique identification numbers provided by ADF&G) will not be published by UAF or its contractors by any means or in any form that would allow connection between individuals and harvest information.

### ***Study Sample***

I selected a stratified random sample of sheep hunters (n=3,601) from the study population database to participate in the survey. A stratified random sample process involves: 1) dividing the sample population into different non-overlapping groups (i.e., strata) that are of interest or deserve special attention because of the project hypothesis, and then 2) selecting a simple random sample from each stratum (Vaske 2008). As the population size of the strata becomes smaller, a greater proportion of that population must be sampled to maintain adequate statistical error and confidence. Our general strata included resident and nonresident hunters and resident and nonresident hunters that received or applied for a permit but did not hunt or did not draw. The latter group was designed to potentially capture responses from “disenfranchised” hunters as described above. The BOG and ADF&G expressed special interest in different groups (e.g., rural and urban) of Alaska residents that have hunted sheep in the last 5 years. Therefore, I sampled a greater proportion of Alaska residents to maintain adequate statistical error and confidence for smaller strata (Example: rural Alaska hunters that successfully harvested a sheep in the last 5 years). My sampling design provided a margin of error of roughly  $\pm 5\%$  at a 95% confidence level for different strata under the assumption of a 30% response rate.

I surveyed all commercial operators (N=171) in the database that provided a commercial service to sheep hunters. With the small study population, 119 survey participants (70% response rate) were needed to provide a margin of error of  $\pm 5\%$  at a 95% confidence level.

### *Mailing*

I administered the questionnaire to the study samples using internet and mail survey methods. Each hunter/commercial operator selected to participate in the survey received a unique 5-digit code linked to their hunter/harvest record in ADF&G's database or their commercial operator record in the ADCC&E database. Assignment of the 5-digit code allowed the removal of personal identification information. The internet survey was delivered using SurveyMonkey®, an online survey tool that allows each survey participant to enter their 5-digit code and provide responses to the questionnaire. The mail survey included multiple mailings:

1. Postcard with internet link to the survey providing advance notification of mail-out questionnaire (sent to hunters in late May and early June, 2014, sent to commercial operators June 18, 2014).
2. Questionnaire packet (i.e., cover letter, questionnaire, return envelope) was mailed two weeks after the first postcard mailing to those that had not completed the survey online.
3. Second postcard sent one month after first questionnaire packet as a reminder to non-respondents.
4. Second mailing of questionnaire packet sent to non-respondents two weeks after second postcard.

The hunter survey was officially closed on Sept. 1, 2014, and the commercial operator survey was officially closed Sept. 15, 2014.

### *Data analysis*

I provided basic descriptive statistics of responses for all resident sheep hunters (Appendix B), nonresident sheep hunters (Appendix C), and commercial operators (Appendix D) to all questions on the survey. Because of differences in characteristics and responses between resident sheep hunters, nonresident sheep hunters, and commercial operators, these groups were analyzed separately. ***This report focuses on responses of Alaska residents that have hunted sheep during the last 5 years.*** A low percentage (9%) of people responded to the survey that had not hunted sheep in Alaska during the last 5 years. Therefore, only people that have hunted sheep in Alaska were included in the analysis. I explain details on this decision in the first section of the Results section. To determine existence or prevalence of sheep hunter concerns (Objective 1), I included questions on the survey that measured the extent of agreement or disagreement that sheep hunter crowding and competition was a problem (**hereafter, “problem”**). I divided hunters into two groups based on their response to questions that assessed the existence of a problem. The first group contained hunters that agreed or strongly agreed there was a problem (i.e., **problem group**). The second group included the remaining responses, which were hunters that disagreed, strongly disagreed, neither agreed or disagreed, or were unsure if there was a problem (i.e., **no problem group**). I identified significant differences between each group by comparing patterns in each group's demographic and hunting characteristics, and extent of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with current sheep regulations and management (Objective 2). Identification of significant differences between groups highlighted potential factors contributing to perceptions that a problem did or did not exist. The last part of my analysis sought to identify approval or disapproval of potential regulatory and management changes that may help to resolve sheep hunting pressure, crowding, and competition



(Objective 3). I reported similarities and significant differences among groups of hunters that did and did not perceive a problem.

## Results

Survey results focused on Alaska residents that have hunted sheep (n=698). The Appendices (B-D) include resident hunter, nonresident hunter, and commercial operator responses to all questions asked on the survey. A summary comparison between resident, nonresident, and commercial operator responses to questions directly addressing problems and solutions related to sheep hunter crowding is provided in Appendix E and briefly described in the Discussion. A more comprehensive evaluation and comparison of each group will be performed at a later time.

### Survey Response

After accounting for redundant and undeliverable addresses (n = 230), I sampled approximately 3,371 people (Table 1). I received 1,163 responses of which 1,055 were valid (response rate = 31%). Response rates were significantly different between people that have (40%) and have not hunted (9%) during the last 5 years. Further, the respondents that haven't hunted sheep during the last 5 years often completed a small portion of the questionnaire. Therefore, I excluded respondents that have not hunted sheep from the analysis. For people that hunted sheep in the last 5 years, the survey provided a sampling error of 3.0± at the 95% confidence level (Table 1). This sampling error indicates that if the survey was repeated 20 times, the results from 19 of those surveys should be within 3% of the estimates of this study.

Table 1. Alaska Sheep Hunter Survey sampling design and response values.

Group	Subgroup	Population	Sampled <sup>2</sup>	Valid Responses	Response Rate	Survey Sampling Error <sup>3</sup>
Hunted in last 5 years	Resident	5,901	1,889	698	37%	±3.5%
	Nonresident	1,941	522	269	52%	±5.5%
	Total	7,842	2,411	967	40%	±3.0%
Did not hunt in last 5 years <sup>1</sup>	Resident	19,397	661	51	8%	±13.7%
	Nonresident	1,780	299	37	12%	±15.9%
	Total	21,177	960	88	9%	±10.4%
Total		29,019	3,371	1055	31%	±3.0%

<sup>1</sup>This strata includes people that have received a sheep permit and did not hunt, and people that applied for a sheep drawing hunt and did not draw. This strata of the population was excluded from analysis in this report.

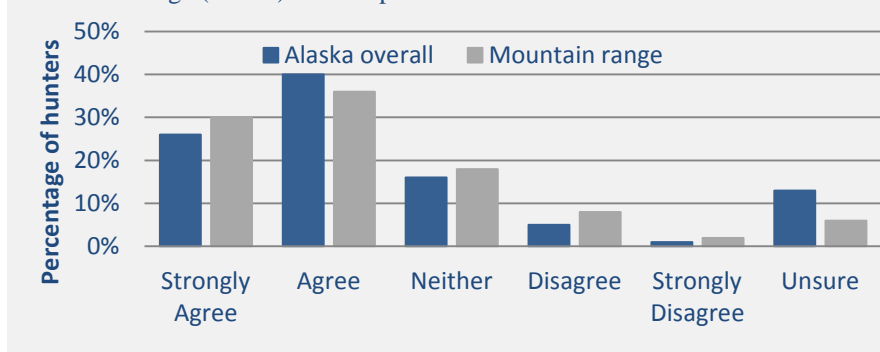
<sup>2</sup>These values account for undeliverable addresses.

<sup>3</sup>At 95% confidence level

### Is there a sheep hunting problem?

When asked if sheep hunter crowding and competition was a problem in Alaska, the majority of resident hunters reported that a problem existed (Fig. 2). A total of 74% of resident hunters agreed or strongly agreed that

Figure 2. Resident hunter extent of agreement or disagreement that sheep hunter crowding and competition is a problem in Alaska overall (n=672) or in the mountain range (n=670) most important to each hunter.



sheep hunter crowding was a problem in either the mountain range most important to them (66%) or in Alaska overall (66%) (Table 2). The remaining 26% of Alaska residents neither agreed or disagreed, disagreed, strongly disagreed, or were unsure if sheep hunter crowding and competition was a problem.

Table 2. Extent of agreement or disagreement that sheep hunter crowding is a problem in Alaska overall and the range most important to each hunter when **ALL** resident hunters were pooled.

Areas	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
In Alaska overall (n=672)	26%	40%	16%	5%	1%	13%
In the range most important to you (n=670)	30%	36%	18%	8%	2%	6%

**Why is there a sheep hunting problem?**

The resident hunters that reported a problem agreed with several possible causes of the problem; more professional guides, more nonresident hunters, fewer legal rams, and more professional transporters and air taxis scored the highest (Fig. 3). Based on response averages, resident hunters did not disagree with any potential causes listed.

Figure 3. Mean extent of agreement among resident hunters (n=498) with different causes of sheep hunter competition and crowding. (-2 = strongly disagree, -1 = disagree, 0 = neither agree or disagree, 1 = agree, 2 = strongly agree)



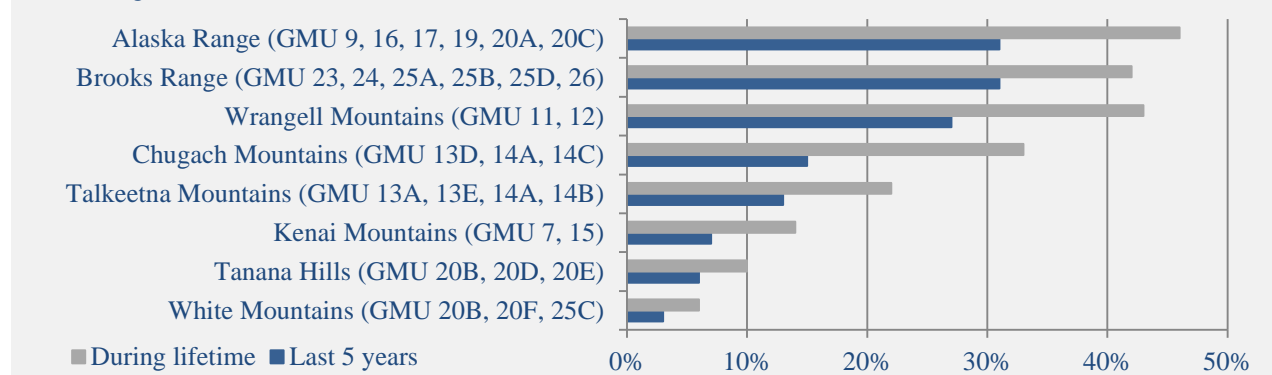
To explore potential reasons why some people did or did not perceive a problem, I compared responses of resident hunters that perceived a problem (74%, n=506) with those that did not or were unsure if a problem existed (26%, n=174). Information on hunter demographics and harvest characteristics were collected from the survey and through ADF&G’s database on hunter license and harvest records. The two groups’ demographics and sheep hunting characteristics differed statistically in several ways (Table 3). Comparing mean or median responses of the two groups, hunters that perceived a problem hunted sheep more times in the last 5 years, hunted sheep more times in their life, were a few years younger, and had received a slightly higher level of education. The number of sheep harvested during the last 5 years, sheep harvest success rate, year when the respondent started hunting sheep, length of residency, and household income in 2013 were similar between residents hunters that perceived a problem and those that did not (or were unsure) (Table 3).

Table 3. Comparisons of demographics and hunting characteristics of all Alaska resident sheep hunters (n=698) and those that did (74%) and did not (26%) perceive a sheep hunter crowding and competition problem. \*Problem and no problem groups significantly different at 0.05.

Variable	All residents (SD)	Problem (SD)	No problem (SD)	P value
Number of times hunted during the last 5 years* (mean)	1.8 (1.3)	1.8 years (1.3)	1.5 years (1.2)	0.003*
Number of sheep harvested during last 5 years (mean)	0.7 (0.9)	0.7 sheep (0.9)	0.6 sheep (0.9)	0.166
Harvest success rate during last 5 years (mean)	0.35 (0.42)	0.35 (0.42)	0.33 (0.44)	0.600
Year started sheep hunting (mean)	1998 (13.5)	1998 (13.4)	1999 (13.8)	0.233
Number of years sheep hunted* (mean)	9 yrs (10)	10 yrs (10.5)	7 yrs (7.9)	<0.001*
Age of respondent* (mean)	47 yrs old (14.0)	46 yrs old (13.5)	49 yrs old (14.3)	0.004*
Length of Alaska residency (mean)	26 yrs (19)	26 yrs (20.0)	26 yrs (15.0)	0.910
Household income in 2013 (median)	\$75,001-\$100,000	\$75,001-\$100,000	\$75,001-\$100,000	0.091
Level of education received* (median)	Graduated from college	Graduated from college	Some college	0.004*

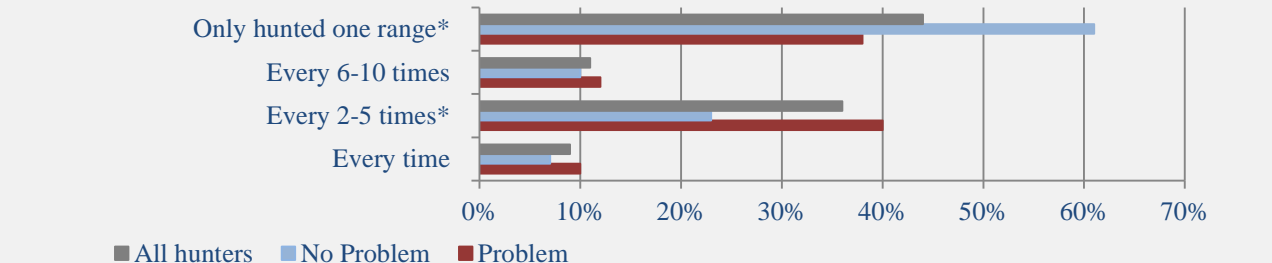
When asked where they hunt sheep, most residents reported that they hunted in the Alaska, Brooks, and Wrangell mountain ranges during the last 5 years and during their lifetime (Fig. 4). The proportions of hunters that did and did not perceive a problem were statistically similar (P=0.971) across all mountain ranges hunted. Also, groups did not differ based on the individual mountain range identified by each hunter as most important (P=0.225).

Figure 4. Percent of resident sheep hunters (n=692) who hunted in various mountain ranges during the last 5 years and during their lifetime.



Forty-four percent of hunters reported that they have only hunted in one mountain range (Fig. 5). Residents that perceived a problem were less likely (P<0.001) to have hunted sheep in only one mountain

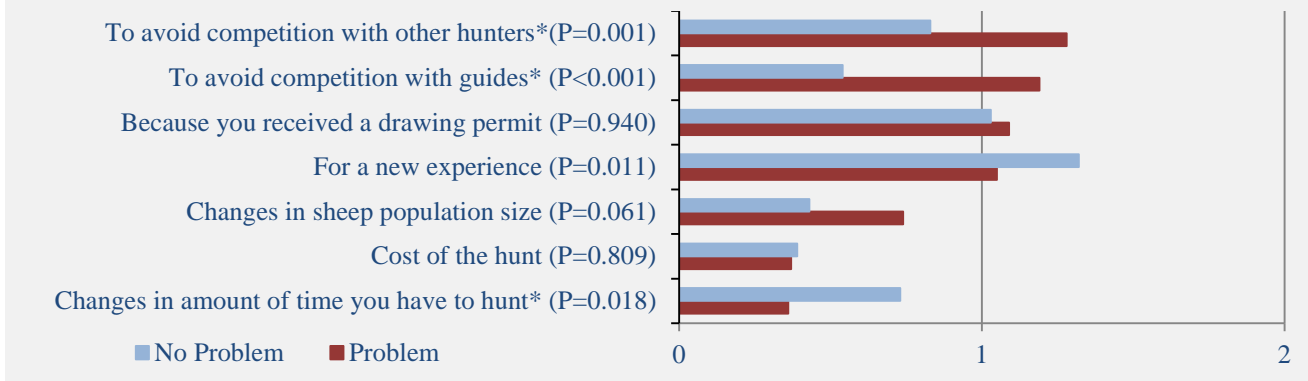
Figure 5. Frequency that all resident hunters and hunters that did (n=500) and did not (n=176) perceive a sheep hunter problem switched mountain ranges to hunt sheep in.\*Problem and no problem groups significantly different at 0.05.



range. Residents that perceived a problem were more likely ( $P < 0.001$ ) to have switched mountain ranges every 2-5 times they went sheep hunting (Fig. 5).

Of those that said they had hunted sheep in different mountain ranges (66%), the reasons for switching ranges was different between those that did and did not perceive a problem (Fig. 6). Resident hunters that perceived a problem were more likely to switch areas to avoid competition with other hunters ( $P = 0.001$ ) and professional guides ( $P < 0.001$ ) compared to hunters that did not perceive a problem.

Figure 6. Mean extent of agreement or disagreement with reasons why residents, that did ( $n = 303$ ) and did not ( $n = 64$ ) perceive a sheep hunter problem, switched mountain ranges to hunt in (2=strongly agree, 1=agree, 0=neither, -1=disagree, -2=strongly disagree). \*Groups significantly different at 0.05.



Hunters that perceived a problem were less likely to switch mountain ranges because of the amount of time they had to hunt ( $P = 0.038$ ). When all residents were grouped, hunter agreement was stronger than disagreement for all reasons, but most hunters agreed or strongly agreed that they switched ranges for a new experience (82%) or to avoid other hunters (80%) (Table 4).

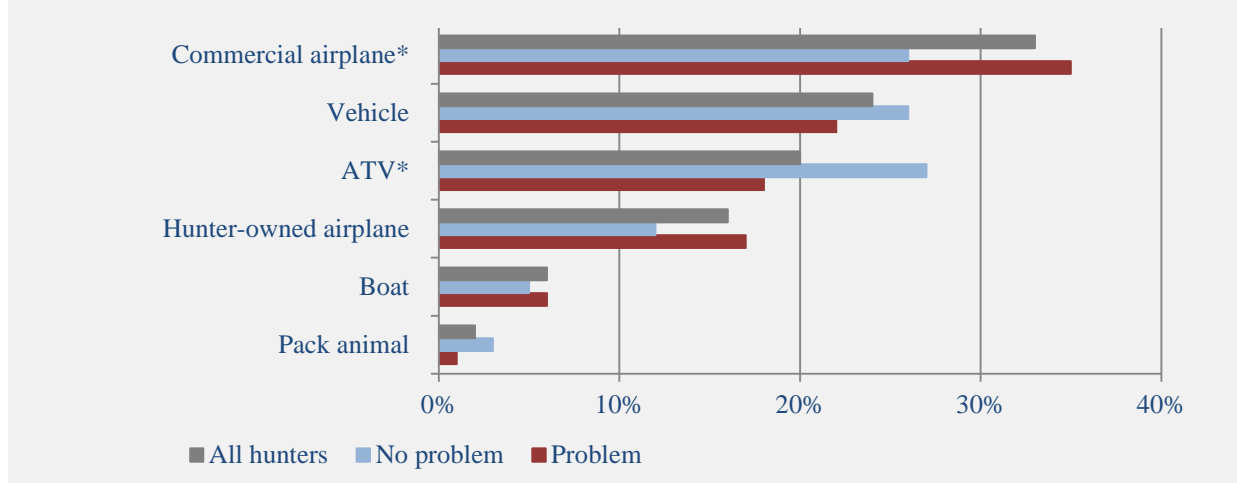
Table 4. Extent of agreement or disagreement with reasons why they switched ranges to hunt in when ALL resident hunters were pooled.

Reason	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Because you received a drawing permit (N=373)	52%	17%	23%	2%	7%
To avoid competition with professional guides (N=370)	46%	24%	23%	4%	3%
To avoid competition with other hunters (N=368)	45%	35%	16%	2%	2%
For a new experience (N=369)	36%	46%	13%	4%	1%
Changes in sheep population size (N=372)	18%	44%	30%	4%	4%
Changes in amount of time you have to hunt (N=361)	14%	36%	37%	6%	7%
Cost of the hunt (N=361)	12%	37%	36%	6%	9%

When asked about modes of access used the most to get to hunting areas, the overall trends were similar between resident hunters that did and did not perceive a problem (Fig. 7). When pooling all resident hunters ( $n = 682$ ), the largest proportion (33%) used a commercial airplane service to hunt sheep. Hunters that did and did not perceive a problem differed in proportion of use of individual modes of access ( $P = 0.016$ ) (Fig. 7). Hunters that perceived a problem were more likely to have used a commercial

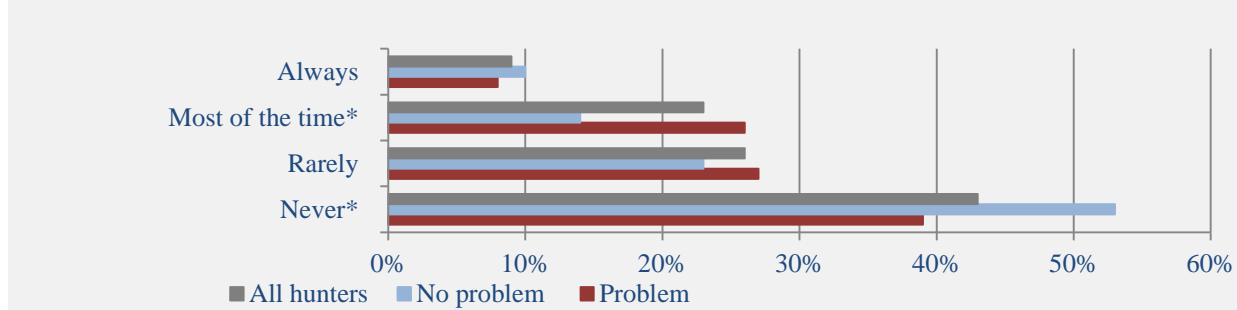
airplane. Hunters that used an ATV were proportionally less likely to perceive a problem compared to other modes of access. Sample sizes of hunters using snowmachines (n=4) and pack animals (n=11) the most were too small for an informative statistical analysis.

Figure 7. Proportional differences in mode of access used the most by all resident hunters and hunters that did (n=499) and did not (n=171) perceive a sheep hunter problem. \*Problem and no problem groups significantly different at 0.05.



Ninety-six percent (n=691) of resident hunters reported that they had never used a professional guide to hunt sheep in Alaska. Frequency of use of transporters or air taxis was different between hunters that did and did not perceive a problem (P=0.003) (Fig. 8). Hunters that perceived a problem were more likely to use a transporter/air taxi most of the time and less likely to never use a transporter/air taxi to sheep hunt.

Figure 8. Frequency of transporter or air taxi use by all resident hunters (n=680) and hunters that did (n=506) and did not (n=174) perceive a sheep hunter problem. \*Problem and no problem groups significantly different at 0.05.



With the focus of the study being on existence and extent of hunter perceptions of sheep hunter crowding and competition, it was important to evaluate hunter tolerance of crowding. In general, resident sheep hunters have a relatively limited tolerance for crowding. Interrupted stalk or the inability to get away from other hunters were most intolerable situations (Table 5). The overall trend in level of tolerance of various levels of crowding was similar among those that did and did not perceive a problem (Fig. 9). However,

hunters that perceived a problem were statistically less tolerant of all situations presented. Resident sheep hunters found interruptions to their stalk, the inability to get away from other hunters, and the sight of multiple other hunters and camps while hunting the least tolerable situations. The sight of a small plane passing over was the only situation that both groups found tolerable.

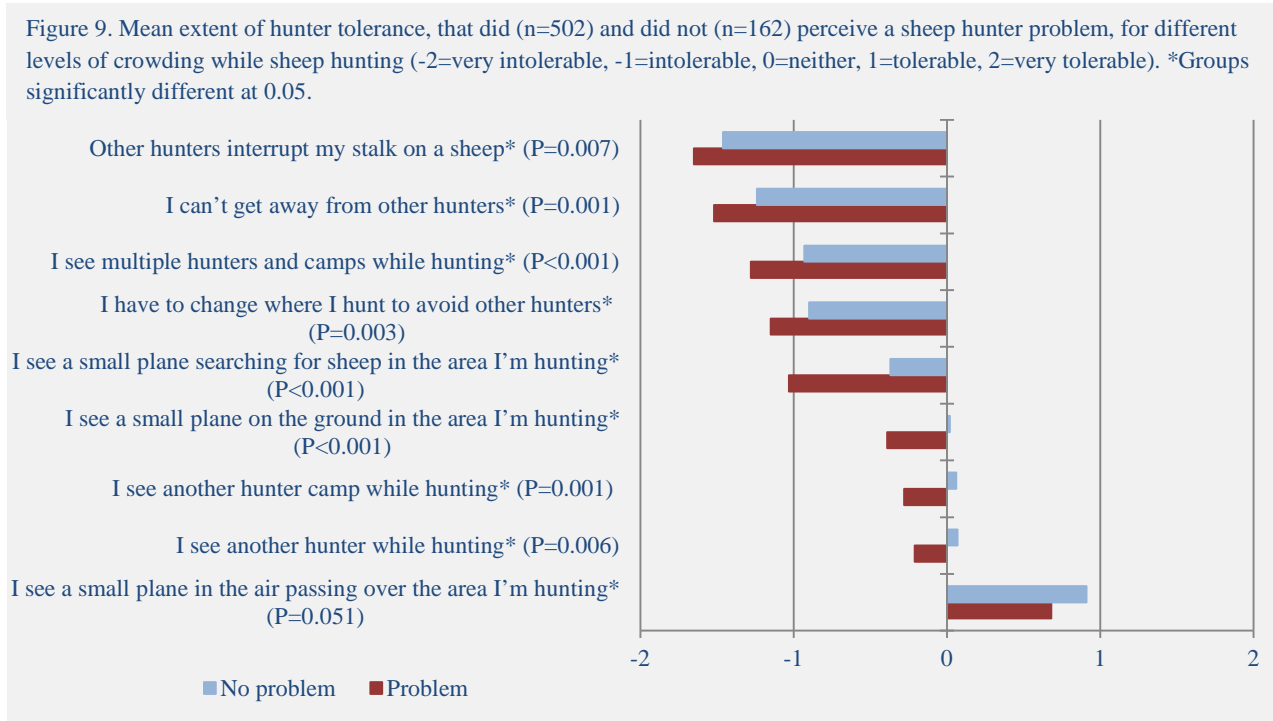


Table 5. Extent of tolerance or intolerance with different levels of crowding while sheep hunting when ALL resident hunters were pooled.

Levels of crowding	Very tolerable	Somewhat tolerable	Neither	Somewhat intolerable	Very intolerable
Other hunters interrupt my stalk on a sheep (n=665)	1%	2%	8%	12%	77%
I can't get away from other hunters (n=662)	1%	2%	14%	15%	67%
I see multiple hunters and camps while hunting (n=665)	3%	6%	8%	35%	48%
I have to change where I hunt to avoid other hunters (n=665)	3%	8%	13%	30%	46%
I see a small plane searching for sheep in the area I'm hunting (n=665)	3%	15%	11%	32%	38%
I see a small plane on the ground in the area I'm hunting (n=666)	6%	27%	18%	32%	18%
I see another hunter while hunting (n=664)	6%	30%	21%	31%	13%
I see another hunter camp while hunting (n=664)	5%	26%	24%	33%	12%
I see a small plane in the air passing over the area I'm hunting (n=667)	30%	38%	13%	14%	4%

Perceptions of hunter crowding and competition were highly correlated with agreement or disagreement with too much harvest pressure in the mountain range most important to individual hunters (Pearson correlation coefficient = 0.413) and in Alaska overall (Pearson correlation coefficient = 0.474). Hunters that perceived a problem agreed and hunters that did not perceive a problem disagreed that there was too much pressure on the sheep population in the sheep mountain range most important to them ( $P < 0.001$ ) and in Alaska overall ( $P < 0.001$ ) (Fig. 10). When all resident hunters were pooled, a slight majority agreed or strongly agreed that there is too much pressure on sheep in the range most important to them (53%) and in Alaska overall (52%) (Table 6).

Figure 10. Mean extent of agreement or disagreement by hunters, that did (n=502) and did not (n=162) perceive a sheep hunter problem, that there is too much harvest pressure on the sheep population in the range most important to them and in Alaska overall (-2 = strongly disagree, -1 = disagree, 0 = neither, 1 = agree, 2 = strongly agree). \*Groups significantly different at 0.05.

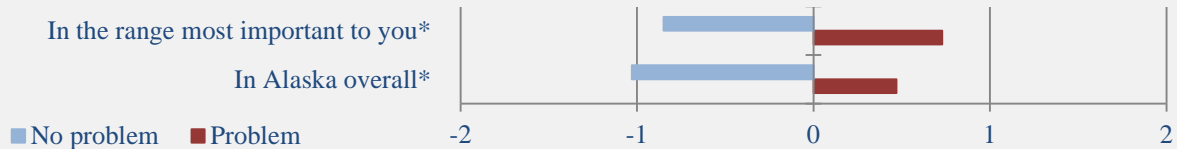


Table 6. Extent of agreement or disagreement that there is too much harvest pressure on the sheep population in the following areas when **ALL** resident hunters were pooled.

Areas	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly agree	Unsure
In Alaska overall (n=671)	14%	38%	24%	6%	2%	16%
In the range most important to you (n=673)	23%	30%	26%	11%	2%	9%

When asked if the sheep population size has increased or decreased since each hunter started hunting, mean response of hunters that did and did not perceive a problem were similar (Fig. 11). Both groups felt that the sheep population has decreased in the sheep mountain range most important to them ( $P = 0.124$ ) and in Alaska overall ( $P = 0.240$ ) since they started hunting sheep (Fig. 11). When all resident hunters were pooled, very few hunters felt the population has increased (Table 7).

Figure 11. Mean extent that hunters, that did (n=502) and did not (n=162) perceive a sheep hunter problem, felt the sheep population has increased or decreased since each hunter started hunting sheep (-2 = significant decrease, -1 = decrease, 0 = neither, 1 = increase, 2 = significant increase).

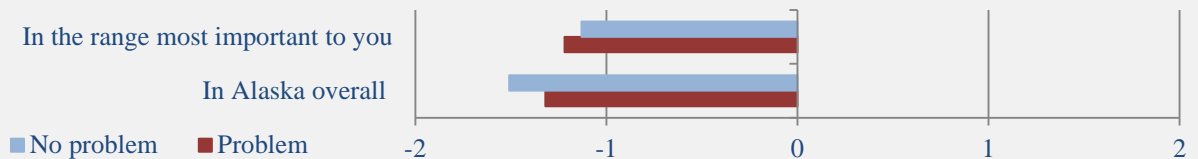
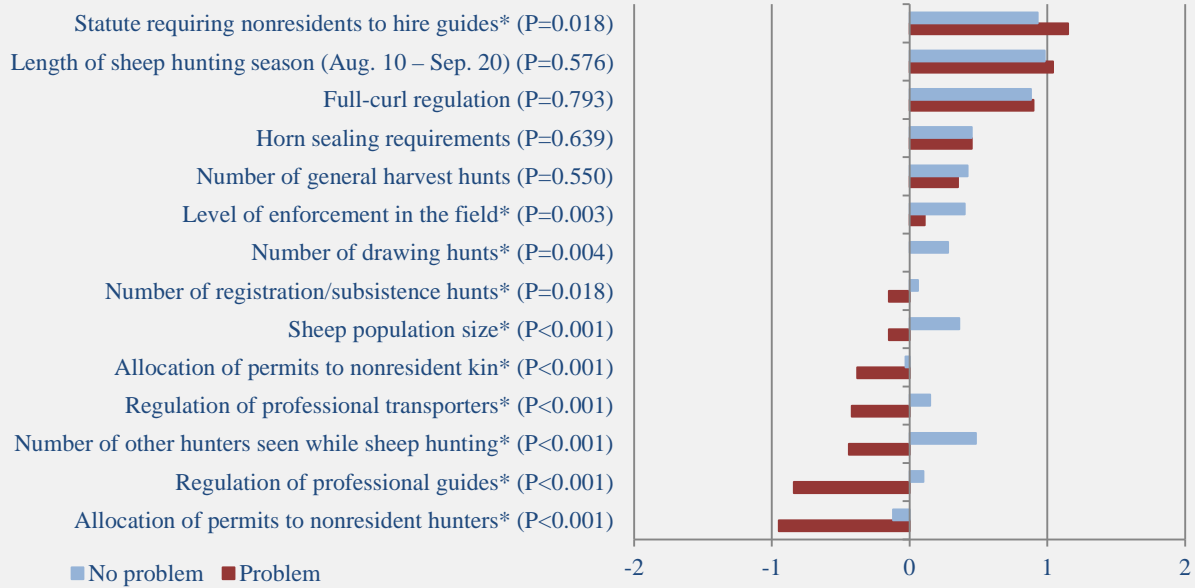


Table 7. Extent that hunters felt the sheep population has increased or decreased since each hunter started hunting sheep when **ALL** resident hunters were pooled.

Areas	Significant increase	Slight increase	Neither	Slight decrease	Significant decrease	Unsure
In Alaska overall (n=671)	1%	3%	25%	26%	21%	24%
In the range most important to you (n=669)	2%	4%	25%	25%	28%	16%

Figure 12. Mean extent of satisfaction or dissatisfaction by hunters, that did (n=499) and did not (n=164) perceive a sheep hunter problem, with a various sheep management and regulation characteristics (-2 = very dissatisfied, -1 = somewhat dissatisfied, 0 = neither, 1 = somewhat satisfied, 2 = very satisfied). \*Groups significantly different at 0.05.



I also asked hunters to provide their extent of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with several sheep management and regulation characteristics (Fig. 12). The mean response from all resident hunters indicated satisfaction with the statute requiring nonresidents to hire guides, the length of the sheep hunting season, the full-curl regulation, horn-sealing requirements, the number of general harvest hunts, and the level of law enforcement in the field (Table 8). When comparing groups, hunters that perceived a problem expressed significantly more dissatisfaction with several management and regulation characteristics such as allocation of permits to nonresidents (including nonresident kin) and the regulation of professional guides and transporters (Fig. 12).

Table 8. Extent of satisfaction or dissatisfaction with several different sheep management and regulation characteristics when ALL resident hunters were pooled.

Characteristic	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Requirement for nonresidents to hire guides (n=664)	52%	23%	14%	7%	5%
Length of sheep hunting season (Aug. 10 – Sep. 20) (n=666)	41%	35%	13%	8%	3%
Full-curl regulation (n=662)	40%	32%	10%	13%	5%
Horn sealing requirements (n=657)	24%	28%	28%	11%	10%
Number of general harvest hunts (n=666)	13%	35%	33%	14%	5%
Level of enforcement in the field (n=664)	12%	26%	39%	17%	7%
Number of drawing hunts (n=660)	7%	30%	35%	21%	7%
Number of registration/subsistence hunts (n=661)	7%	15%	49%	19%	11%
Sheep population size (n=661)	6%	33%	23%	29%	9%
Allocation of permits to nonresident 2nd-degree of kindred hunters (n=658)	6%	14%	41%	24%	15%
Number of other hunters seen while sheep hunting (n=664)	5%	21%	29%	36%	8%
Regulation of professional transporters (n=662)	5%	16%	40%	23%	16%
Regulation of professional guides (n=661)	4%	15%	26%	27%	29%
Allocation of permits to nonresident hunters (n=657)	3%	8%	29%	32%	29%



When asked about the level of importance of multiple factors, the general trend in factors that are important to the satisfaction of a sheep hunt was similar among resident sheep hunters that did and did not perceive a problem (Fig. 13). Hunters that perceived a problem assigned the strongest importance to the level of hunter crowding and competition, and to the seclusion from other hunters (Fig. 13). The opportunity to hunt sheep every year and the number of legal rams were most important to hunters that did not perceive a problem. However, the level of importance assigned to various factors differed between the two groups. Crowding, competition, seclusion from other hunters, and plane traffic were significantly more important to hunters that perceived a problem compared to those that did not. When all residents were pooled, number of legal rams seen (93%), crowding and competition (92%), and seclusion from other hunters (92%) received the most support when “important” and “very important” were pooled (Table 9). However, the opportunity to hunt sheep every year was assigned “very important” by more hunters than any other factor (Table 9).

Figure 13. Mean level of importance or unimportance assigned by hunters, that did (n=500) and did not (n=170) perceive a sheep hunter problem, to factors related to sheep hunter satisfaction (-2 = very unimportant, -1 = somewhat unimportant, 0 = neither, 1 = somewhat important, 2 = very important). \*Groups significantly different at 0.05.

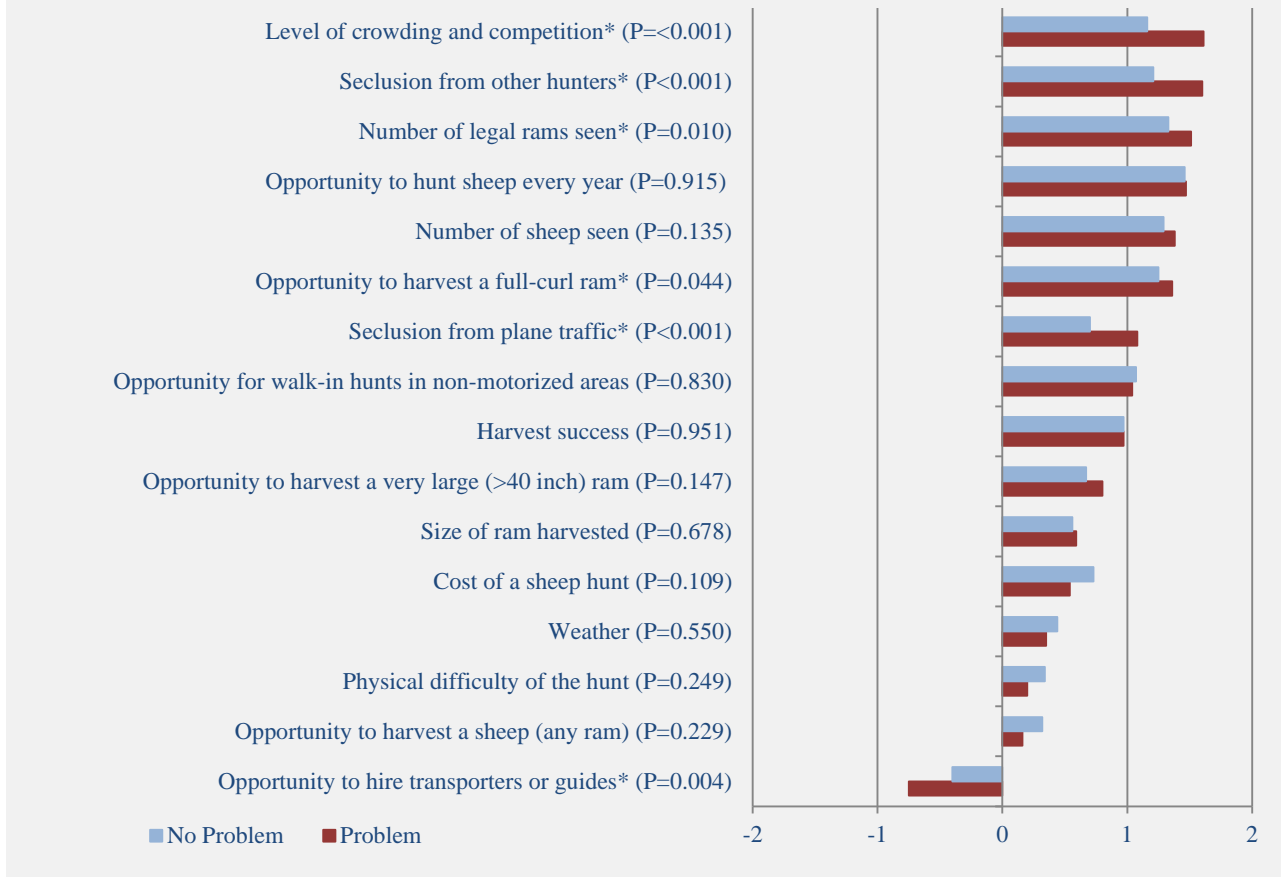


Table 9. Extent of importance or unimportance of several factors related to sheep hunter satisfaction in Alaska when ALL resident hunters were pooled.

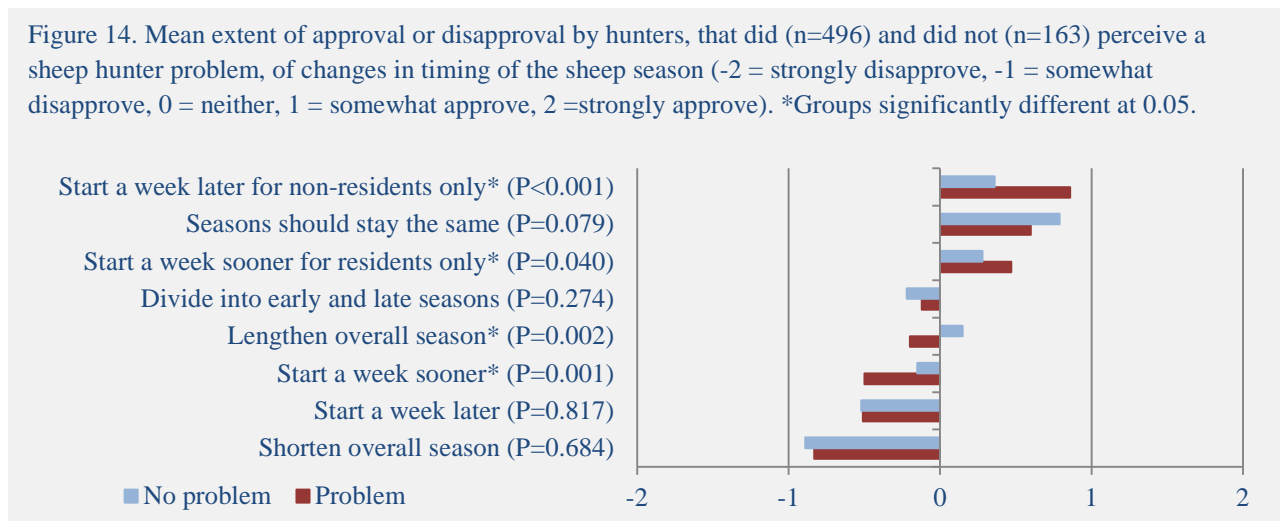
Factor	Very important	Somewhat important	Neither	Somewhat unimportant	Very unimportant
Opportunity to hunt sheep every year (n=673)	64%	25%	6%	5%	1%
Seclusion from other hunters (n=675)	60%	32%	6%	1%	1%
Level of crowding and competition (n=673)	60%	32%	6%	1%	1%
Number of legal rams seen (n=674)	56%	37%	5%	2%	0%
Opportunity to harvest a full-curl ram (n=672)	50%	38%	7%	3%	1%
Number of sheep seen (n=675)	49%	41%	7%	3%	0%
Opportunity for walk-in hunts in non-motorized areas (n=675)	43%	32%	15%	6%	4%
Seclusion from plane traffic (n=673)	34%	41%	17%	5%	2%
Opportunity to harvest a very large (>40 inch) ram (n=673)	33%	34%	18%	11%	6%
Harvest success (n=675)	30%	47%	15%	6%	2%
Cost of a sheep hunt (n=670)	26%	33%	23%	12%	7%
Opportunity to harvest a sheep (any ram) (n=674)	20%	27%	21%	17%	15%
Weather (n=666)	18%	30%	30%	14%	8%
Size of ram harvested (n=674)	16%	46%	22%	12%	4%
Physical difficulty of the hunt (ex: distance you have to walk) (n=672)	13%	34%	26%	17%	10%
Opportunity to hire professional transporters or guides (n=670)	7%	14%	23%	17%	39%

**How might sheep hunting be improved?**

This section of the study explored ways to improve sheep hunting and harvest opportunities (Objective 3) by estimating the extent of approval or disapproval of potential changes to many sheep management and regulation characteristics. The options of potential changes that hunters chose from were identified during focus-group discussions and based on recommendations provided by the BOG.

When all resident hunters were asked about their extent of approval or disapproval of changing the length or timing of the sheep hunting season, hunters approved of nonresidents starting later, residents starting earlier, or seasons staying the same (Fig. 14, Table 10). All hunters disapproved of shortening the sheep

Figure 14. Mean extent of approval or disapproval by hunters, that did (n=496) and did not (n=163) perceive a sheep hunter problem, of changes in timing of the sheep season (-2 = strongly disapprove, -1 = somewhat disapprove, 0 = neither, 1 = somewhat approve, 2 =strongly approve). \*Groups significantly different at 0.05.



hunting season and starting it a week later or a week sooner for all hunters (residents and nonresidents). However, hunters that perceived a problem expressed stronger disapproval of the season starting a week earlier for all hunters. Hunters that perceived a problem also expressed stronger approval of the sheep hunting season starting a week later for nonresidents and a week earlier for residents (Fig. 14).

Table 10. Extent of approval or disapproval of changes in the timing of the sheep hunting season when **ALL** resident hunters were pooled.

Timing of hunt	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Start a week later for nonresidents only (n=656)	35%	30%	17%	8%	10%
Start a week sooner for residents only (n=654)	29%	27%	18%	13%	14%
Seasons should stay the same (n=661)	29%	24%	35%	8%	5%
Lengthen overall season (n=654)	12%	19%	34%	16%	19%
Divide into early and late seasons (Example: Aug. 10-25 & Aug. 26-Sept. 20) (n=653)	8%	22%	36%	12%	21%
Start a week sooner (n=665)	6%	14%	38%	19%	24%
Start a week later (n=656)	4%	9%	44%	21%	23%
Shorten overall season (n=649)	2%	5%	33%	27%	33%

Currently, hunters are not allowed to hunt sheep the same day airborne, and it is against the law to hunt until 3:00am the following day after a hunter has flown. Also, an aircraft can be used during the hunting season to spot sheep. When hunters were asked about potential changes to the same day airborne regulations, hunters that did and did not perceive a problem expressed strong disapproval of removing the regulation that restricts hunters from sheep hunting the same day airborne (Table 11, Fig. 15). When comparing hunters that did and did not perceive a problem, hunters that perceived a problem approved of a ban on spotting sheep from an aircraft during the hunting season. A ban would mean that an aircraft could not be used to search for and locate sheep by a sheep hunter or anyone facilitating a sheep hunt during the hunting season. Hunters that did not perceive a problem slightly disapproved of a ban on spotting sheep using an aircraft during the hunting season. Hunters that did not perceive a problem had the strongest approval for regulations staying the same as they are now. Whereas, hunters that perceived a problem had strongest approval for a ban on spotting sheep from an aircraft during the hunting season (Fig. 15). When all residents were pooled, prohibition of spotting sheep from an aircraft received the largest response in the “strongly approve” category (Table 11).

Figure 15. Mean extent of approval or disapproval by hunters, that did (n=492) and did not (n=167) perceive a sheep hunter problem, of changes in same-day airborne regulation (-2 = strongly disapprove, -1 = somewhat disapprove, 0 = neither, 1 = somewhat approve, 2 =strongly approve). \*Groups significantly different at 0.05.

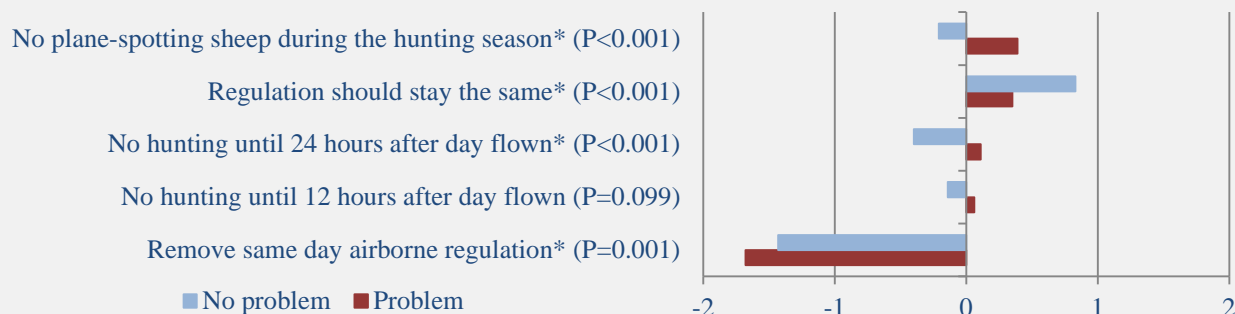


Table 11. Extent of approval or disapproval of changes in the same-day airborne hunting regulation when **ALL** resident hunters were pooled.

Change in regulation	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Do not allow hunters to spot sheep with an aircraft during the hunting season (n=663)	31%	18%	16%	15%	20%
Regulation should stay the same (n=656)	28%	22%	28%	12%	10%
Do not allow hunting until 24 hours after day flown (n=656)	27%	13%	18%	15%	27%
Do not allow hunting until 12 hours after day flown (n=655)	18%	26%	19%	15%	22%
Remove same day airborne regulation (n=664)	3%	2%	5%	11%	79%

When asked if additional special sheep hunts should be implemented, hunters expressed some approval for more non-motorized hunts, trophy (large and old rams) hunts, and for hunts to stay the same (Table 12, Fig. 16). Hunters disapproved of more muzzleloader and subsistence hunts. Compared to hunters that did not perceive a problem, hunters that perceived a problem expressed stronger approval for non-motorized hunts and less approval for hunts to stay the same. Hunters that perceived a problem also expressed stronger disapproval of subsistence hunts than hunters that did not perceive a problem (Fig. 16).

Figure 16. Mean extent of approval or disapproval by hunters, that did (n=492) and did not (n=168) perceive a sheep hunter problem, of additions of special Alaska sheep hunts (-2 = strongly disapprove, -1 = somewhat disapprove, 0 = neither, 1 = somewhat approve, 2 =strongly approve). \*Groups significantly different at 0.05.

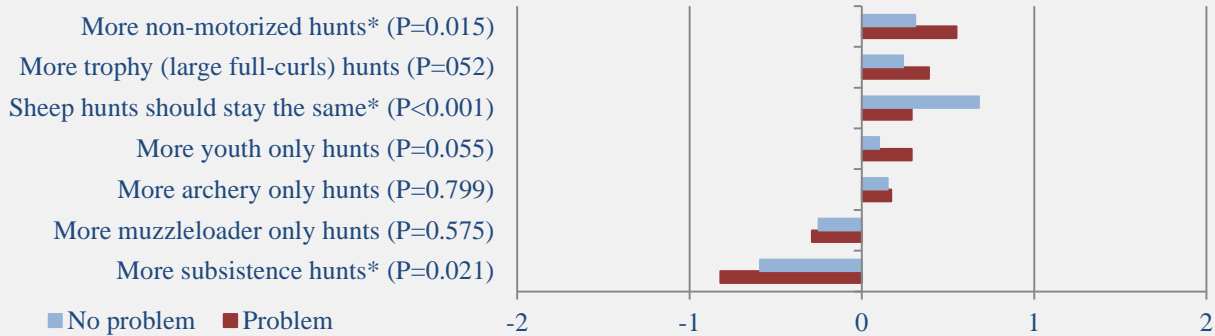


Table 12. Extent of approval or disapproval of increases in special Alaska sheep hunts when **ALL** resident hunters were pooled.

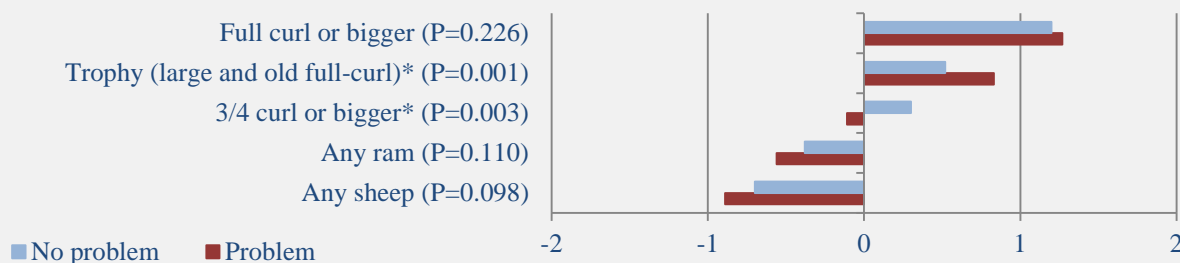
Type of hunt	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
More archery only hunts (n=656)	28%	22%	28%	12%	10%
More non-motorized hunts (n=655)	27%	24%	30%	10%	10%
More trophy (old and large rams) management hunts (n=655)	19%	30%	29%	13%	10%
More youth only hunts (n=667)	17%	24%	31%	15%	13%
Sheep hunts should stay the same (n=655)	15%	30%	37%	12%	5%
More muzzleloader only hunts (n=664)	7%	15%	41%	19%	19%
More subsistence hunts (n=658)	7%	9%	26%	17%	40%

When asked about approval of different horn regulations and sheep types in drawing permit areas, mean hunter response suggests strongest approval for full-curl regulations and some approval for trophy (large and old full-curl rams) (Fig. 17, Table 13). Hunters’ response indicated disapproval for any ram or any sheep hunts. Hunters that perceived a problem had stronger approval for trophy management than hunters that did not perceive a problem. Also, hunters that perceived a problem slightly disapproved of ¾-curl ram regulations. Whereas, hunters that did not perceive a problem expressed some approval for ¾-ram regulations.

Table 13. Extent of approval or disapproval of changes in horn regulations, in drawing areas only, when **ALL** resident hunters were pooled.

Type of hunt	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Full curl or bigger (n=657)	54%	27%	11%	5%	3%
Trophy (large and old full-curl rams) (n=655)	36%	26%	23%	8%	8%
¾ curl or bigger (n=647)	16%	30%	14%	15%	25%
Any ram (n=656)	12%	20%	11%	21%	37%
Any sheep (n=656)	8%	13%	12%	21%	46%

Figure 17. Mean extent of approval or disapproval by hunters, that did (n=490) and did not (n=161) perceive a sheep hunter problem, of changes in horn regulations in drawing permit areas (-2 = strongly disapprove, -1 = somewhat disapprove, 0 = neither, 1 = somewhat approve, 2 =strongly approve). \*Groups significantly different at 0.05.



Both hunters that did and did not perceive a problem felt that limits should be placed on the percentage of permits allocated to nonresidents (Table 14). However, hunters that perceived a problem were more in favor of the limit. The median percentage of the total allocation of sheep permits that nonresidents should receive was significantly lower for hunters that perceived a problem (Table 14).

Table 14. Comparison of attitudes of all Alaska resident sheep hunters, and those that did (n=495) and did not (n=170) perceive a sheep hunter problem, toward changes in sheep tag prices and permit allocation limits to nonresidents.

Question	All	Problem	No problem
Should limits be placed on allocation of sheep permits to nonresidents* (P<0.001)	Yes 88%	Yes 93%	Yes 73%
If yes, what % of total allocation should nonresidents receive* (median) (P=0.008)	10%	10%	15%
Should Alaska residents pay for a sheep tag* (P<0.001)	Yes 40%	Yes 45%	Yes 25%
If yes, how much should a resident pay for a sheep tag (median) (P=0.245)	\$50	\$50	\$38
Should the price of a nonresident sheep tag change* (P<0.001)	Yes 70%	Yes 77%	Yes 49%
If yes, how much should a nonresident pay for a sheep tag (median)* (P<0.001)	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$750

\*Groups significantly different at 0.05.

A minority of hunters felt that residents should pay for a sheep tag. For those that approved of a resident tag fee, the median price suggested was \$50 for hunters that perceived a problem and \$38 for those that did not. Most hunters that perceived a problem thought the price of a nonresident tag (current price = \$425) should increase to a median price of \$1000. Roughly half of the hunters that did not perceive a problem felt that the price of a nonresident tag fee should increase. Of those, the median price suggested was \$750 (Table 14).

When hunters were asked to consider several different changes to reduce hunting pressure, competition, and crowding, the most approved changes all involved reducing nonresident hunting opportunities (Table 15). Prohibition of spotting sheep from an aircraft during the hunting season, reduced motorized access, and more drawing hunts were also approved changes (Table 15). Mean response indicated strongest approval for a reduction in permit allocation to guided nonresidents, followed by approval of an increase in nonresident tag fees and a reduction in permit allocation to nonresident kin (Fig. 18). Strongest disapproval was given to reducing the length of the hunting season and limiting hunters to an allocation of one sheep permit every three years.

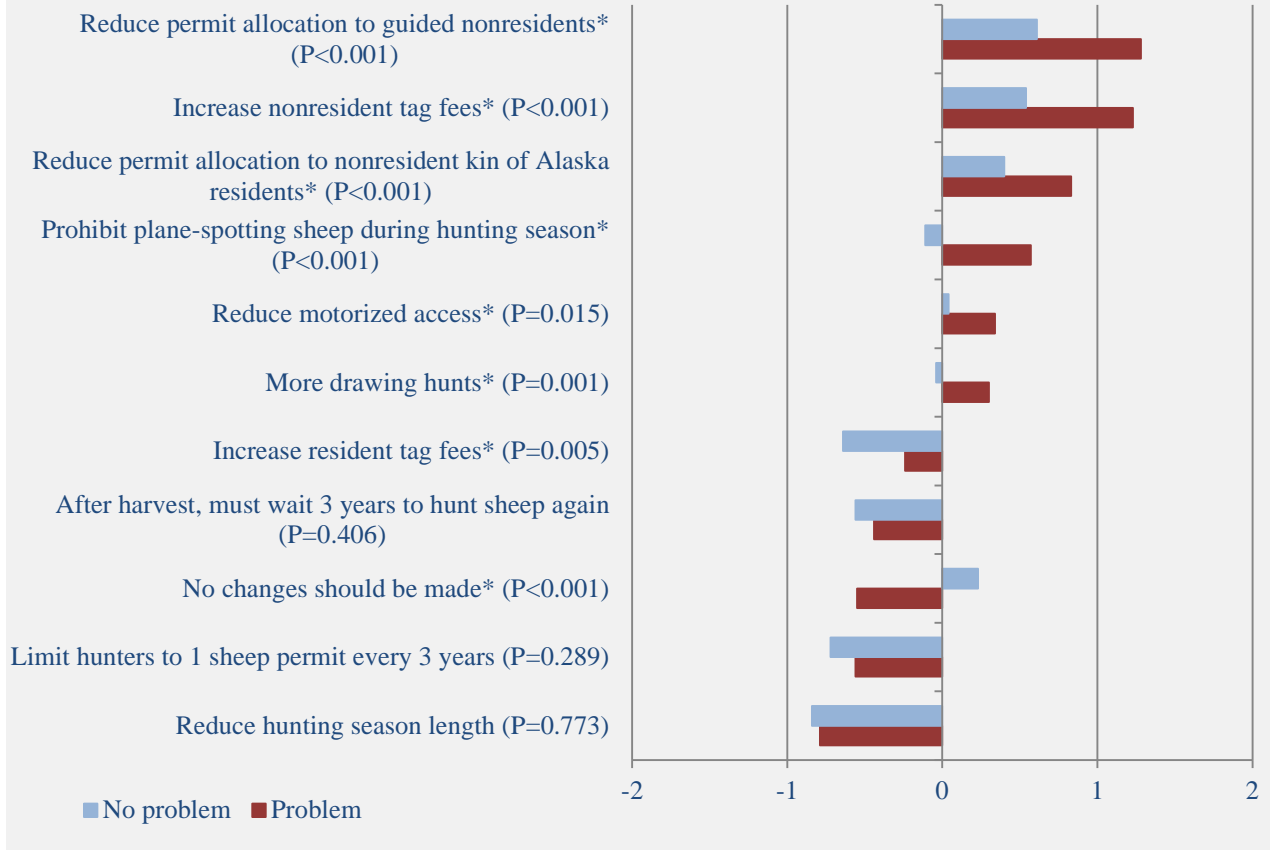
Table 15. Extent of approval or disapproval of potential changes to reduce sheep hunting pressure, competition, and crowding when **ALL** resident hunters were pooled.

Potential change	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Reduce permit allocation to nonresidents hunting with professional guides (n=668)	51%	26%	12%	5%	6%
Increase nonresident tag fees (n=662)	49%	24%	15%	7%	5%
Reduce permit allocation to nonresidents hunting with second-degree of kindred (see question 15 for definition) Alaska residents (n=663)	33%	31%	18%	12%	7%
Prohibit spotting sheep from aircraft during hunting season (n=664)	31%	22%	19%	14%	14%
Reduce motorized access (n=657)	20%	28%	22%	17%	12%
More drawing hunts (n=660)	16%	36%	16%	19%	14%
Increase resident tag fees (n=664)	16%	16%	19%	19%	30%
After harvesting a sheep, hunters must wait 3 years to hunt sheep again (n=663)	12%	23%	8%	17%	39%
Limit hunters to 1 sheep permit every 3 years (n=665)	11%	20%	9%	21%	40%
No changes should be made (n=621)	7%	11%	44%	19%	20%
Reduce hunting season length (n=652)	3%	10%	22%	37%	29%

When comparing hunters that did and did not perceive a problem, significant differences in approval and disapproval existed between groups for several potential changes (Fig. 18). Hunters that perceived a problem expressed stronger approval for reduced allocation to nonresidents and increased nonresident tag fees. Hunters that perceived a problem approved of a prohibition on spotting sheep from an aircraft during the hunting season, whereas hunters that did not perceive a problem expressed slight disapproval of a prohibition. Hunters that perceived a problem also expressed significantly higher approval of reduced motorized access and more drawing hunts. Lastly, hunters that did not perceive a problem expressed some approval for no changes to be made. Hunters that perceived a problem disapproved of no management or regulatory changes (Fig. 18).

Figure 18. Mean extent of approval or disapproval by hunters, that did (n=496) and did not (n=167) perceive a sheep hunter problem, of potential changes to reduce sheep hunting pressure, competition, and crowding (-2 = strongly disapprove, -1 = somewhat disapprove, 0 = neither, 1 = somewhat approve, 2 =strongly approve).

\*Groups significantly different at 0.05.



## Discussion

Findings from this survey indicated that approximately three out of four resident sheep hunters agreed or strongly agreed that crowding and competition while sheep hunting is currently a problem in either Alaska overall or the mountain range most important to them. One out of every ten resident sheep hunters disagreed or strongly disagreed that sheep hunter crowding and competition was a problem (Table 2), and the remainder were unsure or neither agreed or disagreed. Based on these results, I concluded that concerns reported in sheep proposals submitted to the BOG in recent years (Appendix A) were representative ( $\pm 3.5\%$  margin of error at a 95% CI) of the majority of resident sheep hunters in Alaska.

The responses to several survey questions differed between resident hunters that did and did not (included those that were unsure) perceive sheep hunter crowding as a problem. Although perceptions of crowding were unrelated to sheep harvest success of the hunter, hunters that perceived a problem hunted sheep more times during the last 5 years and during their life (Table 3). I suspect that people that hunt sheep more frequently may have a greater chance of encountering other hunters and experiencing crowding. I did not identify a relationship between where people hunt and the perception of crowding. However, I

evaluated the crowding problem at a mountain-range scale. This mountain-range evaluation may have missed relationships at the scale of a Game Management Unit or specific hunt area (e.g., Tok Management Area). Hunters that used a commercial airplane (Fig. 7) or a transporter most of the time (Fig. 8) to access their hunting area were more likely to perceive a sheep hunter crowding problem. This relationship may be related to increased numbers of commercial operators in general or increased numbers of resident hunters with their own plane using a limited number runways. However, I did not have reliable data to confirm either of these causes. The relationship also may be related to hunter expectations. For instance, hunters paying for access by aircraft may expect a higher quality hunt than hunters that walk in from a road (Fig. 7). The association between airplane use and perceptions of crowding may also be related to how an airplane is used once a hunter reaches their hunting area. Hunters perceiving a problem approved of a prohibition on using an airplane to facilitate sheep hunting during the hunter season. Hunters that did not perceive a problem expressed slight disapproval of banning plane-spotting of sheep during the hunting season (Fig. 18).

Overall, I speculate that individual sheep hunter expectations may have contributed to differences in perceptions of a crowding problem as much as individual demographic or behavioral characteristic of a sheep hunter. In general, hunters that perceived a hunter crowding problem were less tolerable of all different scenarios of crowding presented (Fig. 9), and they also assigned a higher level of importance to various factors related to sheep hunter satisfaction (Fig. 13). At this time, the exact reason why 24% of hunters did not perceive a crowding problem is unclear. My unsupported explanations include the following: these hunters' expectations have been met in recent years, these hunters simply don't think that sheep hunting pressure is a problem (Fig. 10), or they are concerned that BOG changes in response to a hunter-crowding problem may be more drawing hunts that could limit annual opportunities. For hunters that did not perceive a problem, the most important factor related to sheep hunter satisfaction was the opportunity to hunt sheep every year (Fig. 14). Further, the potential changes of "limiting hunters to 1 sheep permit every 3 years" received strong disapproval by resident hunters that did not perceive a problem (Fig. 18).

Survey respondents were proportionally representative of where all resident sheep hunters reside (urban or rural) and choose to hunt (mountain range). The proportions of survey respondents hunting sheep in various mountain ranges (Fig. 4) were similar to Division of Wildlife Conservation (DWC) (2014) data on the sheep hunter numbers in each mountain range between 2001 and 2013. Based on ADF&G harvest records, approximately 75% of residents that hunted sheep between 2009-2013 resided in nonsubsistence use areas (i.e., urban areas according to Alaska Statute 16.05.258c). Of the 25% of rural sheep hunters, 20% resided in communities on the road network and 5% resided in communities off the road network. Sixty-nine percent of survey respondents resided in urban areas, 18% resided in rural communities on the road network, and 13% resided in rural communities off the road network. Overall, the survey results slightly underrepresented urban sheep hunters and overrepresented sheep hunters residing in rural communities off the road network. However, there were a few exceptions. A combination of low response rates and mail rerouting problems resulted in underrepresentation by some rural communities near or in the Brooks Range (e.g., Kotzebue, Anaktuvuk Pass, Wiseman, Kaktovik). Some rural communities also may be underrepresented because of low compliance with sheep harvest reporting requirements. In general, correcting for over or underrepresentation based on location of residence is unlikely to change results. Among hunters living in urban, rural on road, and rural off road communities, I found no



difference in perceptions of crowding in Alaska overall ( $P = 0.971$ ) and in the mountain range most important to each hunter ( $P = 0.069$ ).

The harvest success rate of survey respondents (35%) was higher than the 5-year average for all resident sheep hunters (25%) based on ADF&G harvest records. The overrepresentation of successful hunters in the survey may have been related to the nature of the survey. I spoke with approximately 25 survey nonrespondents (people that received the survey and did not return it). The majority of nonrespondents indicated that they did not complete the survey for two reasons: 1) they were not interested enough in sheep hunting to devote the time to the survey, or 2) they did not feel qualified to answer the questions based on their knowledge of sheep hunting in Alaska. I speculate that people less interested in and less knowledgeable about sheep hunting may have lower harvest success. If a more detailed analysis of groups (e.g., GMU hunted) will help evaluate sheep hunter concerns, then data variables can be weighted to correct for under or overrepresentation of the subgroup of interest. Results from focused comparisons of specific groups may differ from unweighted results presented in this report.

Resident hunters reporting a crowding (74%) primarily attributed the problem to more guides, more nonresident hunters, fewer legal rams, and more transporters and air taxis (Fig. 3). Hunters linking the problem to fewer legal rams was supported by DWC (2014) findings that sheep populations may be declining in several mountain ranges. I was unable to find reliable and precise independent data to assess changes in commercial operator activity. Big Game Commercial Services (under the ADCC&ED) does not have a readily accessible database that facilitates an analysis of how numbers of guides and transporters providing services to sheep hunters has changed over time. Further, there is currently no objective method to identify and quantifying the services that air taxis provide sheep hunters. Additional efforts to better quantify changes in spatial and temporal activities (Ex. Fig. 11 in DWC 2014) of commercial operators providing services to sheep hunters will advance understanding of how sheep management functions.

Resident hunters attributing the crowding and competition problem to more nonresident hunters does not directly corroborate with DWC (2014) findings that nonresident hunter numbers have been stable over time. However, resident hunter concerns may be more related to nonresident hunter influence on sheep harvest, rather than concerns over actual number of nonresident hunters. While the number of nonresident hunters has remained relatively constant over time, the number of legal rams that all hunters are competing for has likely decreased in many mountain ranges (DWC 2014). Resident hunter numbers have declined by roughly 20% since the early 1990s. The reason for the resident decline is unknown. The concept of a “disenfranchised” hunter that was identified during focus-group discussions and BOG proposals suggests that declines in resident hunter numbers are associated with a decline in the quality of sheep hunts driven by more competition with other hunters, especially professionally-guided nonresidents.

Other indicators commonly used to assess hunter opportunity, such as harvest success and hunting effort (mean days hunted), have slightly declined or been relatively stable, respectively (DWC 2014). However, neither of these parameters may be good indicators of sheep hunter satisfaction (i.e., hunter actual experience/hunter expectation). Harvest success was ranked 9<sup>th</sup> in importance of 16 choices when survey respondents assigned importance to factors related to hunter satisfaction (Fig. 13). Physical difficulty of the hunt (potential gauge of effort) ranked 14<sup>th</sup> in importance. Survey results indicated that sheep hunter

satisfaction was strongly linked to the following factors: levels of hunter crowding while sheep hunting, seclusion from other hunters, numbers of sheep seen, and opportunities to hunt every year. With the current sheep population size and distribution, hunter expectations related to satisfaction may be difficult to achieve if all sheep hunters expect an opportunity to harvest legal rams every year in seclusion. To attain ideal hunter satisfaction while reducing harvest pressure on sheep populations (Fig. 10), either hunter expectations or hunter densities need to be reduced. Survey results indicated that residents would prefer to address the problem by reducing nonresident hunter numbers.

Most (88%) of resident hunters reported that a limit of 10% (median) of sheep permits should be allocated to nonresidents. In certain sheep management areas (e.g., Tok, Delta Controlled Use, 14A), 10% limits on nonresident sheep hunters have been established (DWC 2014). Some professional guides participating in my focus-group discussions commented that reducing nonresident sheep permits will significantly reduce state revenue for management and research of sheep. With an annual average of 450 nonresident sheep hunters paying \$425 per tag, ADF&G generates an estimated \$191,250 from these tag sales. A permit allocation of 10% (approximately half of current participation) to nonresident sheep hunters would reduce tag revenue by \$95,625. With an annual average of 1,800 resident sheep hunters, each resident hunter would need to pay \$53 for a tag to make up the loss in tag revenue due to reductions in nonresident sheep hunters. Seventy percent of resident hunters felt that fees on nonresident tags should be increased to \$1,000 (median, Table 14). Considering the scenario where allocation limits (10%) reduce numbers of nonresident sheep hunters (approximately 225 people), a \$1,000 nonresident tag would increase current state revenue from sheep tags by \$33,750. However, revenue from sheep tags may be relatively small compared to other nonresident hunter expenditures associated with the guiding industry in Alaska (Watson 1990, McDowell Group 2014). A few professional guides participating in focus group discussions also quoted a section of ADF&G's mission statement (2014) that states that game resources are to be developed "...in the best interest of the economy and the well-being of the people of the state".

Resident hunter dissatisfaction with (Fig. 12) current management of sheep hunting did not corroborate precisely with their approval of changes (Fig. 18) to reduce sheep hunting pressure, competition, and crowding. For example, resident hunters were most dissatisfied with the current allocation of permits to nonresidents and the regulation of guides. Resident hunters expressed strong approval of changes that reduce allocation of the permits to nonresidents (approval of changes to guide regulations was absent). This discrepancy was likely related to the structure of the questionnaire. The questionnaire asked hunters to express their satisfaction or dissatisfaction with the regulation of commercial operators. The questionnaire did not ask for their approval or disapproval of potential changes to the regulation of commercial operators. Not including "regulation of guides" as an option on the approval or disapproval question was deliberate. BOG requested that survey questions exploring hunter suggestions for improvement to sheep management and regulation focus on issues that the BOG could adequately address during the 2015 BOG meetings. Regulation of guides is not under the jurisdiction or authority of the BOG or ADF&G. In addition, other efforts were underway during this survey to address regulation of big game guides (DML&W 2014). Changes in tag fees for sheep hunters (also not directly regulated by the BOG) were included in the questionnaire because of a more substantive connection between license and tag fees and ADF&G's operations which directly affect sheep management and research programs.

Potential management changes in the questionnaire receiving strongest approval by resident hunters may reduce sheep hunting opportunities for other interest groups. Although I was not contracted to analyze

responses from other interest groups with the same detail as resident hunter responses, it is important to explore and compare nonresident and commercial operator responses to survey questions that directly addressed problems and solutions related to sheep hunter crowding (Appendix E). Compared to resident hunters, a higher number of commercial operators agreed or strongly agreed (84%) that sheep hunter crowding and competition is a problem in either Alaska overall or in the mountain range most important to them. A minority (35%) of nonresident sheep hunters agreed or strongly agreed that sheep hunter crowding was a problem (Appendix E).

All three groups agreed that more professional guides and few legal rams were two of the top three causes of sheep hunter crowding and competition (Appendix E). Nonresident hunters differed with their perception that resident hunters were causing the problem. According to commercial operators, the main cause of the problem was more transporters and air taxis. However, transporters and air taxis were underrepresented in the commercial services survey. Therefore, this finding may better indicate the perceptions of professional guides. Of the 69 valid responses to the commercial services survey (response rate = 50%), 62 respondents provided guiding services, 8 provided transporter services, and 11 provided air taxi services to sheep hunters. Adding these services indicates some commercial operators provided multiple services.

All three groups differed with regard to dissatisfaction with sheep management and regulation characteristics (Appendix E). Commercial operators were strongly dissatisfied with regulation of transporters and air taxis providing services to sheep hunters. Nonresidents were dissatisfied with the statute requiring them to have a guide when sheep hunting if they were not accompanied by an Alaska resident within second-degree of kindred. All three groups expressed strong satisfaction with length of the sheep hunting season and full-curl regulations

Approval of sheep management and regulation changes to reduce sheep hunting pressure, crowding, and competition differed among all three groups. Commercial operators most strongly approved of increasing resident tag fees and requiring sheep hunters to wait three years to hunt again after harvesting a sheep. Nonresidents expressed strongest approval of sheep hunters waiting three years to hunt after harvesting a sheep. Nonresidents also approved of reducing motorized access and creating more drawing hunts to reduce sheep hunting pressure, crowding and competition (Appendix E). As mentioned above, approval or disapproval of changes in guiding and transporting regulations was not included as an option to choose from in the question because the BOG has no authority to regulate commercial services. Similar to residents expressing strongest approval for changes that would impact nonresidents and their guides, professional guides and nonresidents strongly approved of changes that would primarily impact residents. A management change requiring sheep hunters to wait three years to hunt again after harvesting a sheep would be unlikely to hinder professional guide activity and the practices of their clients (93% are nonresidents, Appendix D, Question 10). Most nonresidents only hunt sheep in Alaska once and very few hunt sheep consecutive years in Alaska.

To my knowledge, quantitative data collected from previous statewide research on Alaska sheep hunter attitudes and behaviors no longer exists. Statewide surveys on attitudes and satisfaction of Alaska sheep hunters were conducted by ADF&G in 1973 (Smith, unpublished) and 1980 (Cica, unpublished). The questionnaires used in those surveys have been located. Both ADF&G and I have been unable to find the results. Although not directly related to my survey, Watson (1990) conducted an in-depth study on the

economics of sheep hunting in Alaska. ADF&G (Gardner 2002) conducted a study in 2000 to assess hunter satisfaction with sheep hunts within the Tok Management Area (TMA: drawing permit area). Similar to my study, the Tok study reported that most (89%) hunters agreed that solitude while sheep hunting was important. Different from my statewide analysis, Gardner (2002) found that 77% of respondents were satisfied with the quality of sheep hunts.

Using data from these previous studies with different intentions, I am unable to objectively quantify whether perceptions of sheep hunter crowding and the quality of sheep hunts in Alaska has changed over time. Although my focus-group discussions provided qualitative insight on the quality sheep hunts in the past, this information should be considered exploratory rather than objective and scientifically conclusive.

This survey provided a statewide “snapshot” on sheep hunter attitudes and behaviors relating to concerns about hunter crowding and other issues relevant to sheep management and regulation. These data will serve as baseline of scientific information for comparison with future efforts. This survey also created a new stream of communication from sheep hunters to the BOG and ADF&G. Effective management of a highly-prized public resource with economic importance requires a careful balance and compromise among conflicting interests. The engagement of multiple stakeholders in the research process will likely contribute to more informed management decisions and an improved public understanding (and possibly acceptance) of why decisions were made.

## **Acknowledgments**

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**Appendix A.** Four years (2010-2013) of Dall sheep hunting proposals submitted to the Alaska Board of Game (BOG). The Alaska Sheep Hunter Survey was conducted (summer 2014) to address specific information needs related to these proposals. The Alaska Sheep Hunter Survey collected information on characteristics and attitudes of sheep hunters to answer the following questions: 1) Is there a sheep hunter problem? 2) Why is there a sheep hunter problem? and 3) How might sheep hunting be improved? The list of sheep proposals was organized and prepared by N. Weber, Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

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**PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open resident sheep seasons ten days before nonresident seasons in the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Change the dates for sheep hunting to:

Alaska residents: August 1 to September 20  
Nonresidents: August 10 to September 20

**ISSUE:** The quality, safety and crowded conditions of sheep hunting at the start of the season.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The overall quality and safety of sheep hunting in Alaska will continue to deteriorate due to the large number of people trying to get into the field at the start of the season. This will put a big strain on all of the resources and parties involved.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal would increase the overall quality and safety of sheep hunting for both residents and nonresidents by eliminating overcrowding and the competition for available resources.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Both residents and nonresidents would benefit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, although the guides and some nonresidents may disagree.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** There is no other solution to this problem. I think that the guiding industry is doing a good job for their customers using a public resource to make a very good living. I welcome nonresidents to come to Alaska and hunt but a quality hunt is very important for everyone and unless something is done this will not be the case.

**PROPOSED BY:** Leonard Jewkes

EG043013842

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**PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 85.055 Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open resident sheep hunting seasons seven days before nonresident seasons in the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Sheep season dates:

Alaska residents: August 5 – September 20  
Nonresidents: August 12 – September 20

Alaska residents may only hunt sheep in regions with similar start dates. This will keep hunters from trying to get an early start in one region (which would cause overcrowding) and then shift to another area. If a resident hunter picks Regions III or V, those are the only regions they may hunt sheep for that season. If the Board of Game would have passed the early start dates at the last statewide meeting we wouldn't have to make more rules. We need to start this region by region so Alaskans will have this statewide preference by 2016. A different colored sheep tag for

Region III & V would make it easy to see if the resident hunter is in the appropriate area and legal (*This proposal was also submitted for Region III*).

**ISSUE:** Overcrowding, lack of quality experiences, and low allocations of sheep for Alaska residents. Nonresidents harvest over 40% of Alaska’s sheep and that number keeps increasing.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The quality of the hunt has been diminished by overcrowding and this is the best way to separate the number of hunters in the field. This is not a new idea and resident sheep hunters have supported this concept in the past. The resident has had to compete against the infrastructure of the guiding industry and everyone is trying to enter the mountains at the same time. Air services could spread out their charters and many residents would be returning when the nonresident hunters would be heading out to hunt with their chosen guide. Getting a legal ram is a difficult task and this would give our young Alaska resident hunters a much better opportunity to be successful. This should be a statewide proposal but the Board of Game failed to pass any of the 23 proposals presented to them requesting some preferences for Alaska residents. This statewide issue won’t come up again until 2016 so now we need to adjust the dates in different regions.

The only other solution is to put all nonresidents on permits. The number of permits given to nonresidents would be 15% of the total sheep harvest of the previous year. Example: 1000 sheep harvested = 150 permits for nonresidents.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This will make it much easier to get hunters in and out of the field – both resident and nonresident. Both groups will have a better experience due to less crowded conditions. Guides want people to think that nonresidents will quit coming to Alaska to hunt if any preference is given to Alaska residents and this is not the case. Nonresidents can come to Alaska and buy over the counter tags for most species cheaper than a deer tag can be purchased in many of the western states. The nonresident tag fees are a big boost to the Department of Fish and Game but the Board of Game and the Alaska Legislature needs to keep resident Alaskans as their number one priority.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska resident sheep hunters and nonresident sheep hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Commercial operators (guides) will complain but they are making money off a public resource we (all Alaskans) own and many of these guides are nonresidents who can’t legally harvest sheep, goats, or brown bears but they can guide other nonresidents. The price of the tag is cheap but the cost of a guided hunt is expensive.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Lamal

EG042913829

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**PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open a bowhunting only season for Dall sheep in the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Add a new bowhunting only sheep season in all northern and northcentral units where there is a current general sheep season. Dates would be August 1 - 9. The bag limit would be one full curl ram. Only open to International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) certified bowhunters.

**ISSUE:** Overcrowding of hunters seeking Dall sheep is reducing the quality of the sheep hunting experience.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The problem will continue to increase and eventually all sheep hunting will need to be by drawing permit.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** It would improve the quality of the outdoor experience which qualifies as a resource. It would not improve the quality of the products produced.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Bowhunters by being given a chance to hunt sheep with less direct competition from rifle hunters. Firearm sheep hunters by not seeing quite as many hunters in the field when they were actually hunting because the bowhunters who wanted to hunt sheep would probably utilize the bow season.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one really. Bowhunters for Dall sheep have a very low success rate even when they are allowed to take any sheep. This hunt would be much more difficult because it would be for full curl rams only. This proposal would serve to spread out utilization with very little effect on the sheep population. Multiple parties on the mountain at the same time significantly reduces the quality and enjoyment of the hunting experience for all involved.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Have the new archery season be after the regular sheep season, September 21-30. This is the model which has been in effect for over 30 years in Unit 14C. However the northern units (especially the Brooks Range) have very short cold days in late September and weather could be a safety issue. Long warm days are important to bowhunters who must be patient waiting for an opportunity to get close to sheep.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaskan Bowhunters Association

EG050113876

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**PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Change nonresident sheep hunts to drawing hunts and limit the permit distribution to ten percent of the annual ten year average for the Arctic/Western Region as follows:

Nonresidents wanting to participate in sheep hunting in Alaska will have to enter by drawing permit. The drawing permit will be limited to a maximum of 10% of the annual ten year historical average sheep harvest in Region V.

**ISSUE:** Because of our decreasing resident hunter success and falling sheep populations, I would like the Board of Game to limit, by drawing permit, all nonresident hunters of Alaska's Dall sheep to a maximum of 10% of the preceding ten year average historical harvest.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaskans limited natural resources will continue to be taken by increasing number of nonresidents. Ignoring this fact, and the fact of our shrinking sheep population, will soon force drawing permits on Alaska residents.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, this proposal not only protects our natural resources from the ever increasing pressure of the guide industry, but also places Alaska on EQUAL footing with ALL western states who have long ago, limited the nonresident hunters to a maximum of 10% of the sheep permits.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Alaska residents, and the natural resources we are in-trusted with.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Some nonresident hunters and some in the guide industry.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Trying, yet again, to express to the Board of Game that we have a statewide problem with our Dall sheep populations. I am not blaming the guide industry for the decreasing sheep

populations, I am saying that the increased percentage nonresident harvest, shows an increased pressure on our sheep.

The first step in restricting access of our limited game resources, should be to place our nonresident hunters on EQUAL footing with the nonresident hunters in other states.

**PROPOSED BY:** Vern Fiehler

EG042813810

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**PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Hunting seasons and bag limits.** Allocate a small percent of game harvest for nonresidents in Unit 26 as follows:

Only allow a small or token percent of the most abundant game for nonresidents in Unit 26.

**ISSUE:** In my 50 years in Alaska the number of nonresident hunters and big game guides has increased dramatically which has diminished a resident’s opportunities, mainly on sheep but certainly includes all big game, now we even have nonresident guides. Opening sheep hunting for residents early is the only way I see to give residents a fair opportunity at success, especially older residents. I have observed guides putting their camps in and locating sheep and other big game weeks before the season and manning these camps to discourage and chase away hunters that might compete. Other states give priority to residents but here nonresidents have equal footing and now the most sought after hunt of Delta bison nonresidents are increasing every year. This hunt should be residents only. I have spoken at Board of Game meetings about these very issues in the past and members that are big game guides have laughed me out of the room. It's time to man up and do the right thing, reduce nonresident hunting and let them have only a small percent of what is available. Thank you.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Less opportunities for residents and more opportunities for nonresidents.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Will definitely improve the quality, more and bigger sheep, in the 1960s and 1970s I harvested 9 rams over 41” that cannot happen anymore.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Residents of Alaska will benefit, our constitution says that the big game should be managed for sustained yield for all Alaskans, to my knowledge it says nothing about nonresidents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** I don't think nonresidents will suffer, just less opportunities, it will reduce the number if big game guides which will help all residents and therefore the State of Alaska.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Status quo is not an option.

**PROPOSED BY:** Norman Pickus

EG042113751

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**PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Hunting seasons and bag limits.** Allocate 90% drawing permits to residents for the Interior Region and distribute remaining permits on a first come basis as follows:

Alaska residents should receive 90% of all drawing permits and nonresidents should receive 10%. If any permits are left over then they could be sold over the counter on a first come basis.



**ISSUE:** The way that Alaska allocates hunting permits for residents and nonresidents.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Currently Alaskan residents and nonresidents are on an equal footing when it comes to most permit drawings. If the current system continues, a nonresident applying for a permit will have the same chance as a resident. That means that even though you live here year round and support your state you have the same chance as a nonresident. This hardly seems fair. Many states give their residents an advantage. With many hunts going to a permit draw I think it is high time Alaska does the same.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. A system will be put in place to help the Alaskan resident harvest more of the resource. This system is in place in many other states and it rewards their residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaskan residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonresidents.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solution is acceptable unless a point system is established favoring residents.

**PROPOSED BY:** Leonard Jewkes

EG043013841

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**PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Hunting seasons and bag limits.** Allocate a small percent of game harvest for nonresidents in Units 24, 25 and 26B as follows:

Only allow a small or token percent of the most abundant game for nonresidents in Units 24, 25 and 26B.

**ISSUE:** In my 50 years in Alaska the number of nonresident hunters and big game guides has increased dramatically which has diminished a resident’s opportunities, mainly on sheep but certainly includes all big game, now we even have nonresident guides. Opening sheep hunting for residents early is the only way I see to give residents a fair opportunity at success, especially older residents. I have observed guides putting their camps in and locating sheep and other big game weeks before the season and manning these camps to discourage and chase away hunters that might compete. Other states give priority to residents but here nonresidents have equal footing and now the most sought after hunt of Delta bison nonresidents are increasing every year, this hunt should be residents only. I have spoken at Board of Game meetings about these very issues in the past and members that are big game guides have laughed me out of the room. It's time to man up and do the right thing, reduce nonresident hunting and let them have only a small percent of what is available. Thank you.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Less opportunities for residents and more opportunities for nonresidents.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Will definitely improve the quality, more and bigger sheep, in the 1960s and 1970s I harvested nine rams over 41” that cannot happen anymore.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Residents of Alaska will benefit, our constitution says that the big game should be managed for sustained yield for all ALASKANS, to my knowledge it says nothing about nonresidents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** I don't think nonresidents will suffer, just less opportunities, it will reduce the number of big game guides which will help all residents and therefore the State of Alaska.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Status quo is not an option.

**PROPOSED BY:** Norman Pickus

EG042113751

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**PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Modify season dates for Dall sheep in the Interior Region as follows:

Resident hunting season for Dall sheep shall be August 3rd to September 20th. Nonresident hunting season shall be from August 10th to September 20th. Drawing permit areas will start seven days earlier for Alaska residents and if there is a split season, the second half will be shortened by seven days for non-residents such that residents can start the second half seven days prior to non-residents.

**ISSUE:** The Board of Game (board) needs to address the lack of full curl legal rams available to Alaska residents. While sheep populations have been stable to slightly declining, the availability of legal rams, much less trophy rams, has been significantly reduced and is in serious decline. Success rates for resident sheep hunters will never be on par with nonresidents if not allowed an earlier jump from the efficiency of their guides.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaskan resident hunters will continue to suffer from the mismanagement of this species by the Board of Game. Alaskan youth will never have the opportunity afforded to their parents and grandparents to successfully hunt healthy populations of Dall sheep with ample populations of large rams. Alaska wildlife belongs to all Alaskans and these resources should be managed as such.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Resident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt and avoid conflicts with guides and their clients. Nonresident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt by avoiding conflicts with resident hunters. Transport services associated with sheep hunting will improve as this will lessen the bottleneck on transporters seen at the beginning of each season, especially during poor weather. This may also increase the safety of hunters and transporters by spreading out the season and users more. Current Alaska residents and future Alaskans may be more interested in hunting Dall sheep, its management, and the future of Dall sheep hunting if they had greater opportunity to locate and harvest a legal ram, much less quality rams.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska residents, Alaska youth, and future Alaskans. Dall sheep populations may also improve as more people may feel like they have a chance at successfully harvesting a quality ram and will be more interested in the management of the resource. This benefits Alaska, all of Alaska’s game resources, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, though some will say nonresident hunters, non-resident guides, and resident guides may suffer. Harvest records, however, show that resident sheep hunters are much less successful than nonresidents because of their guides. This is largely due to time guides can give to pre-season scouting, which is done mostly by fixed wing aircraft. While success rates for resident hunters will hopefully increase, there is little reason to think that nonresident success rates will decline significantly. Pre-season scouting will still be available to guides. Sheep populations will not suffer directly, again because resident hunter success rates are consistently low. Future sheep populations, however, may suffer and receive little support or interest, if today’s youth and future generations cannot hunt healthy populations of sheep, as is currently the case. You will be hard pressed to find any Alaska resident who is not a guide or associated with a guiding business who does not favor this proposal. If not sure whether to favor Alaska residents over nonresidents, please look at any other state and how they manage their resources for the benefit of their residents and not for the financial benefit of a few.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Close non-resident hunting of Dall sheep for five years or until healthy populations of sheep with sufficient populations of legal rams is re-established. Charge resident hunters nonresident harvest fees during this interim to offset any loss of funding from loss of nonresident tags. This would be the best

management practice the board could do, as it would best serve current and future Alaska residents, and most of all best serve the Dall sheep population as a whole. I rejected this solution based on past performance of the board where political and financial interests of a few, trumped the best interests of Alaska residents, Alaska game resources, and Alaska itself.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jake Sprankle

EG042913813

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**PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open resident sheep hunting seasons seven days before nonresident seasons in the Interior Region as follows:

Sheep season dates in Region III:

Alaska residents: August 5 – September 20

Nonresidents: August 12 – September 20

Alaska residents may only hunt sheep in regions with similar start dates. This will keep hunters from trying to get an early start in one region (which would cause overcrowding) and then shift to another area. If a resident hunter picks Region III or V those are the only regions they may hunt sheep for that season. If the Board of Game would have passed the early start dates at the last statewide meeting we wouldn't have to make more rules. We need to start this region by region so Alaskans will have this statewide preference by 2016. A different colored sheep tag for Region III & V would make it easy to see if the resident hunter is in the appropriate area and legal. *(Note: This proposal was also submitted for the Arctic/Western Region).*

**ISSUE:** Overcrowding, lack of quality experiences, and low allocations of sheep for Alaska residents. Nonresidents harvest over 40% of Alaska's sheep and that number keeps increasing.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The quality of the hunt has been diminished by overcrowding and this is the best way to separate the number of hunters in the field. This is not a new idea and resident sheep hunters have supported this concept in the past. The resident has had to compete against the infrastructure of the guiding industry and everyone is trying to enter the mountains at the same time. Air services could spread out their charters and many residents would be returning when the nonresident hunters would be heading out to hunt with their chosen guide. Getting a legal ram is a difficult task and this would give our young Alaska resident hunters a much better opportunity to be successful. This should be a statewide proposal but the Board of Game failed to pass any of the 23 proposals presented to them requesting some preferences for Alaska residents. This statewide issue won't come up again until 2016 so now we need to adjust the dates in different regions.

The only other solution is to put all nonresidents on permits. The number of permits given to nonresidents would be 15% of the total sheep harvest of the previous year. Example: 1000 sheep harvested = 150 permits for nonresidents.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This will make it much easier to get hunters in and out of the field – both resident and nonresident. Both groups will have a better experience due to less crowded conditions. Guides want people to think that nonresidents will quite coming to Alaska to hunt if any preference is given to Alaska residents and this is not the case. Nonresidents can come to Alaska and buy over the counter tags for most species cheaper than a deer tag can be purchased in many of the western states. The nonresident tag fees are a big boost to the Department of Fish and Game but the Board of Game and the Alaska Legislature needs to keep resident Alaskans as their number one priority.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska resident sheep hunters and nonresident sheep hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Commercial operators (guides) will complain but they are making money off a public resource we (all Alaskans) own and many of these guides are nonresidents who can't legally harvest sheep,

goats, or brown bears but they can guide other nonresidents. The price of the tag is cheap but the cost of a guided hunt is expensive.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Lamal

EG042913829

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**PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open resident sheep seasons ten days before nonresident seasons in the Interior Region as follows:

In Region III (Interior Region), change the dates for sheep hunting to:

- Alaska residents: August 1 to September 20
- Nonresidents: August 10 to September 20

**ISSUE:** The quality, safety and crowded conditions of sheep hunting at the start of the season.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The overall quality and safety of sheep hunting in Alaska will continue to deteriorate due to the large number of people trying to get into the field at the start of the season. This will put a big strain on all of the resources and parties involved.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal would increase the overall quality and safety of sheep hunting for both the residents and nonresidents by eliminating overcrowding and the competition for available resources.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Both the residents and nonresidents would benefit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, although the guides and some nonresidents may disagree.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** There is no other solution to this problem. I think that the guiding industry is doing a good job for their customers using a public resource to make a very good living. I welcome nonresident to come to Alaska and hunt but a quality hunt is very important for everyone and unless something is done this will not be the case.

**PROPOSED BY:** Leonard Jewkes

EG043013842

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**PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep and 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts.** Change the nonresident general sheep hunts to draw hunts for the Interior Region, and cap the number of permits based on sheep density as follows:

All nonresident sheep hunts in Region III (Interior Region), where we have general open season hunts for nonresidents (excluding subunits within U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and National Park Service (NPS) lands) become draw only, and the total number of permits is capped based on sheep density and population estimates and/or recent historical sheep harvest data for each subunit, to try to achieve a balance whereby nonresident guided sheep hunter harvest rates are lowered, more full curl rams are left on the mountain, and the conflicts afield greatly reduced.

(If the Board of Game (board) prefers, this regulation if passed could have a sunset clause added should the proposed Department of Natural Resources (DNR) guide concession program ever be implemented.)

We recognize that not all areas in Region III are experiencing the problems outlined in this proposal. However, if the board only works to “fix” the problem areas, that presents the real possibility that some guides will shift to areas still open to general season nonresident sheep hunting where the same type of problems will occur.

There are various ways the board could decide permit allocation levels. One way would be to look at the sheep harvest statistics for federal lands where the federal guide concession program is in place. It has been widely promoted that the proposed DNR guide concession program the board favors as a solution to these issues was supposed to mirror or be similar to the federal concession program. Just using the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge as an example, nonresident sheep harvest rates have tended to average between 25-30%. Below are the statistics from 2011 for subunits 26B and 26C within the Refuge:

**Interim Reports GS000 Sheep - Year 2011 Unit 26B, 26C  
Current File Statistics (110)**

	Successful		Unsuccessful		Did Not Hunt		Total Hunters	
	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct
<b>Residents</b>	95	36.8% <i>36.8% of all overlays</i>	163	63.2% <i>63.2% of all overlays</i>	0	0%	258	100%
<b>Non Res</b>	37	72.5% <i>72.5% of all overlays</i>	14	27.5% <i>27.5% of all overlays</i>	0	0%	51	100%
<b>Unspecified</b>	7	41.2% <i>41.2% of all overlays</i>	10	58.8% <i>58.8% of all overlays</i>	0	0%	17	100%
<b>No Overlay</b>	0	0% <i>0% of all tickets</i>	1	100% <i>100% of all tickets</i>	0	0%	1	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>42.5%</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>57.5%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>327</b>	<b>100%</b>

Nonresident guided hunters took 37 of 139 total sheep for a 27% harvest rate. Nonresident guided hunters comprised 15% of the total hunters.

**ISSUE:** Unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunities and unlimited guide numbers in parts of Region III.

In many parts of Region III (excluding USFWS and NPS lands) where we have open general season sheep hunts, there are no limits on the number of nonresident hunters or the guides they are required to hire to hunt sheep. Because nonresident guided hunters have such a higher success rate than resident hunters, this has led to concerns of localized diminished populations and future restrictions on resident general open season sheep hunting opportunities. Some areas are also experiencing crowding, conflicts between guides and resident hunters and conflicts between guides licensed for the same area.

Our primary concerns are sheep conservation and continued resident general season sheep hunting opportunities. We firmly believe that we can’t allow any areas to have nearly every full-curl ram harvested each season, which is what we fear may happen in some areas if we continue to allow unlimited guiding and nonresident sheep hunting opportunities. We also believe, just on a matter of fairness to Alaskan resident sheep hunters, that nonresident sheep harvest rates of 40% across much of Region III, and 50-80% in some subunits, is unacceptable.

For example, below are the 2011 statistics for two subunits (2012 data not yet available):

**Interim Reports Sheep - Year 2011 Unit 19C**

**Current File Statistics (110)**

	Successful		Unsuccessful		Did Not Hunt		Total Hunters	
	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct
<b>Residents</b>	10	16.7% <i>16.7% of all overlays</i>	50	83.3% <i>83.3% of all overlays</i>	0	0%	60	100%
<b>Non Res</b>	66	82.5% <i>82.5% of all overlays</i>	14	17.5% <i>17.5% of all overlays</i>	0	0%	80	100%
<b>Unspecified</b>	2	100% <i>100% of all overlays</i>	0	0% <i>0% of all overlays</i>	0	0%	2	100%
<b>No Overlay</b>	3	100% <i>100% of all tickets</i>	0	0% <i>0% of all tickets</i>	0	0%	3	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>55.9%</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>44.1%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>100%</b>

For subunit 19C, there were 80 confirmed nonresident guided hunters and 60 resident hunters who hunted Dall sheep in 2011. Guided nonresident hunters took 66 of 81 total sheep, resulting in 81% of the total overall harvest.

**Interim Reports GS000 Sheep - Year 2011 Unit 20A****Current File Statistics (110)**

	Successful		Unsuccessful		Did Not Hunt		Total Hunters	
	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct	Number	Pct
<b>Residents</b>	40	25.2% <i>25.2% of all overlays</i>	119	74.8% <i>74.8% of all overlays</i>	0	0%	159	100%
<b>Non Res</b>	62	72.1% <i>72.1% of all overlays</i>	24	27.9% <i>27.9% of all overlays</i>	0	0%	86	100%
<b>Unspecified</b>	1	16.7% <i>16.7% of all overlays</i>	5	83.3% <i>83.3% of all overlays</i>	0	0%	6	100%
<b>No Overlay</b>	1	100% <i>100% of all tickets</i>	0	0% <i>0% of all tickets</i>	0	0%	1	100%
<b>Total</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>41.3%</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>58.7%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>252</b>	<b>100%</b>

For Unit 20A, a subunit known to have the type of crowding and conflicts described in this proposal, in 2011 there were 86 confirmed nonresident guided sheep hunters and 159 resident hunters. Guided nonresident sheep hunters took 62 of 104 total sheep, resulting in 60% of the total harvest. (Note that even though resident sheep hunters were nearly double the nonresidents, guided nonresident hunters still took 60% of the sheep)

While we certainly support and respect the guiding profession and encourage nonresident hunting and want to share our wildlife resources with our nonresident hunting brethren, we believe there needs to be new limits applied to nonresident sheep hunting opportunity.

This proposal is similar to the one we put before the board in 2012, and at that time the board expressed great displeasure when the Department of Fish and Game presented data on the high nonresident sheep harvest rates in some subunits, like those above. The board is well aware of these ongoing problems, but has put off acting on them using the rationale that the proposed DNR Guide Concession Program that would limit guides (and thus their nonresident clients) would be implemented on state and Bureau of Land Management lands. But as of this writing, the proposed DNR guide concession program has not been funded and has been declared “dead” by DNR sources. Even if it were to be revived and be implemented, the earliest implementation keeps getting pushed farther and farther ahead on the calendar.

With all due respect to the board, we feel strongly it is well past time to act now in ways that will better conserve our sheep populations, prevent the loss of resident general open season sheep hunting opportunities, and curb the ongoing conflicts that surround nonresident guided sheep hunting in much of Region III.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued localized diminished populations of full-curl rams that threaten population sustainability and resident general open season sheep hunting opportunities, continued user conflicts and crowding, and continued inequitable nonresident sheep harvest rates of 40% annually in much of Region III, and 50-80% in some subunits.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. By limiting nonresident sheep hunting opportunities in much of Region III we thus limit the number of guides they must hire, thereby reducing total sheep harvests, better conserving sheep populations, as well as improving the quality of sheep hunts for both guided and unguided hunters by reducing crowding and conflicts afield.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All those who put the resource first and wish to see our Region III sheep populations conserved and sustained. All resident hunters who want to see their general open season sheep hunting opportunities retained, and their success rates go up. All guided nonresident hunters who don't want to compete with so many other guided hunters and who favor a more quality sheep hunt.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Some guides would suffer monetarily because of the lower number of nonresident clients. Division of Wildlife Conservation funding would decrease because of a decrease in nonresident sheep tags being sold, and some local economies could see a decrease in nonresident hunting-related tourism, but it's important to emphasize that these same things would happen if the DNR proposed guide concession program, which the board supports, was implemented.

Nonresident sheep hunters would lose the guarantee to be able to hunt Dall sheep in parts of Region III, and would have to take their chances with a draw-only hunt.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** 1) Waiting for the DNR proposed guide concession program to be implemented. Rejected because we have already waited too long for this proposed concession program to be implemented, and it now appears it will never come about. 2) Only trying to "fix" the known problem areas in Region III, not making all of Region III draw-only for nonresident sheep hunters. Rejected because it has the potential to spread the problems to the areas still open to general season nonresident sheep hunting. 3) Including Region III registration sheep hunts for residents in all general (non-draw) open season areas, mandatory harvest reporting period, Alaska Department of Fish and Games discretionary authority to close some sheep hunts based on harvest reports, in conjunction with our proposed solution. Rejected because we don't believe we need that at this time, but our concern is to conserve sheep so that sheep hunting by all can continue, and we do believe it is important that resident sheep hunters are fully cognizant this may be necessary down the line and preferable to a draw-only hunt.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers EG050113878  
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**PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Hunting seasons and bag limits.** Allocate 90% drawing permits to residents for the Interior Region big game hunts, and distribute remaining permits as follows:

Alaska residents will receive a minimum of 90% of all drawing permits and nonresidents will receive a maximum of 10% of permits, but 10% is not guaranteed. If Alaskans don't apply for particular permits, the extra or leftover permits may be issued to nonresidents (higher tag fees), sold over the counter to residents and nonresidents on a first come first serve basis, or do another drawing. Any hunt with less than ten permits for an area is not open for nonresident drawings but if there are permits leftover, nonresidents may purchase the permits over the counter.

**ISSUE:** Allocation of permits for Alaska residents.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** All of the western states have a high allocation of their drawing permits reserved for their residents. Most of the drawing permits in Alaska don't have any preference for the Alaska resident. A resident can put in for a drawing for 20 years and next year he is on equal footing with a nonresident putting in for the first time. Since Alaska doesn't have preference points (has to be funded by the legislature) the Board of Game needs to give a high allocation of the permits to resident hunters. The commercial operators (guides) don't want either because it is in their best interests not to give Alaska residents any advantage. We're not too far away from having many of our sheep hunts go on permits and moose and caribou are a possibility in certain areas. In many of the western states it is a 90/10 split with 90%+ going to residents and a maximum of 10% going to nonresidents, but 10% is not guaranteed.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Alaskans will receive the same respect other states give their residents and the majority of permit hunted game will go in the freezers of Alaska residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Guides and their nonresident clients.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Lamal

EG042913830

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**PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Change nonresident sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts and limit the permit distribution to ten percent of the annual ten year average for the Interior Region as follows:

Nonresidents wanting to participate in sheep hunting in Alaska will have to enter by drawing permit. The drawing permit will be limited to a maximum of 10% of the annual ten year historical average sheep harvest.

**ISSUE:** Because of our decreasing resident hunter success and falling sheep populations, I would like the Board of Game to limit, by drawing permit, all nonresident hunters of Alaska's Dall sheep to a maximum of 10% of the preceding ten year average historical harvest.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaskans limited natural resources will continue to be taken by increasing number of nonresidents. Ignoring this fact, and the fact of our shrinking sheep population, will soon force drawing permits on Alaska residents.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, this proposal not only protects our natural resources from the ever increasing pressure of the guide industry, but also places Alaska on EQUAL footing with ALL western states who have long ago, limited the nonresident hunters to a maximum of 10% of the sheep permits.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Alaska residents, and the natural resources we are in-trusted with.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Some nonresident hunters and some in the guide industry.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Trying, yet again, to express to the Board of Game that we have a statewide problem with our Dall sheep populations. I am not blaming the guide industry for the decreasing sheep



populations, I am saying that the increased percentage nonresident harvest, shows an increased pressure on our sheep.

The first step in restricting access of our limited game resources, should be to place our nonresident hunters on EQUAL footing with the nonresident hunters in other states.

**PROPOSED BY:** Vern Fiehler

EG042813810

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**PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open a bowhunting only season for Dall sheep in Interior Region as follows:

Add a new bowhunting only sheep season in all northern and northcentral units where there is a current general sheep season. Dates would be August 1-9; the bag limit would be one full curl ram. Open only to International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) certified bowhunters.

**ISSUE:** Overcrowding of hunters seeking Dall sheep is reducing the quality of the sheep hunting experience.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The problem will continue to increase and eventually all sheep hunting will need to be by drawing permit.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** It would improve the quality of the outdoor experience which qualifies as a resource. It would not improve the quality of the products produced.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Bowhunters by being given a chance to hunt sheep with less direct competition from rifle hunters. Firearm sheep hunters by not seeing quite as many hunters in the field when they were actually hunting because the bowhunters who wanted to hunt sheep would probably utilize the bow season.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one really. Bowhunters for Dall sheep have a very low success rate even when they are allowed to take any sheep. This hunt would be much more difficult because it would be for full curl rams only. This proposal would serve to spread out utilization with very little effect on the sheep population. Multiple parties on the mountain at the same time significantly reduces the quality and enjoyment of the hunting experience for all involved.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Have the new archery season be after the regular sheep season, September 21-30. This is the model which has been in effect for over 30 years in Unit 14C. However the northern units (especially the Brooks Range) have very short cold days in late September and weather could be a safety issue. Long warm days are important to bowhunters who must be patient waiting for an opportunity to get c lose to sheep.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaskan Bowhunters Association

EG050113876

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**PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep and 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts.** Change all nonresident sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts in Unit 20 with a 75% distribution of nonresident permits as follows:

Turn all nonresident Dall sheep tags in Unit 20 to drawing only and limit the number to 75% of the number of nonresident tags based on historic average.

**ISSUE:** The overcrowding/overlapping of guides in Unit 20, conflicts between guides, their clients and residents and also an overharvest of rams that have not yet reached their full potential trophy value.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If this issue is not addressed, a conflict will continue to exist and potentially increase between guides who are currently overcrowding one another during the current Dall sheep season. This overcrowding during Dall sheep season has also lead to reports to the Big Game Commercial Services Board of registered guides violating Alaska Statute 08.54.720 as well as more disturbing conflicts between guides and resident hunters.

The overcrowding of guides in Unit 20 has also led to an overharvest of rams in a means that does not allow them to reach their full potential trophy value. This is a major issue especially in Unit 20 where recent genetics have shown many rams take over eight years to reach the full curl requirement. If this issue is not addressed, we as a committee fear resident and nonresident hunters will never again have the opportunity to harvest a true trophy ram, which Unit 20 has been historically known to hold. As of 2011, over 70% of the Dall sheep harvested in Unit 20 have been by nonresidents, who are all required to have a registered guide accompany them. By simply reducing this number by a small fraction, harvest will in turn drop and many more rams will have the opportunity to reach older age. Nonresident hunters will still have the opportunity to hunt in other less pressured portions of Alaska, which is the only state in the United States to not require all nonresidents to apply for a drawing tag for wild sheep.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. By reducing the number of hunters in the field, the overall harvest numbers would decrease while at the same time give hunters the opportunity to disperse. This would in turn lessen the impact of harvest on individual herds and allow for rams to reach greater trophy value. The smaller harvest would also allow these higher trophy value rams to breed more ewes, spreading their genes while also increasing the overall Dall sheep population in Unit 20.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Both resident and nonresident hunters alike as well as law-abiding guides.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** A small percentage of nonresident hunters as well as a portion of the guiding industry.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Turn all nonresident sheep tags in Unit 20 to drawing only tags and reduce the number of tags to 80% of average. We believe as an Advisory Committee that this is not a sufficient enough percentage to reduce the overall harvest and guide conflicts in the unit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Middle Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee EG050113877  
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**PROPOSAL 49 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open resident sheep seasons one week prior to nonresidents in Units 25 and 26 as follows:

Residents have the first week of sheep season without the presence of guides and their hunters.

**ISSUE:** Open sheep season one week for residents only in Units 25 and 26.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Guides think that they own the areas I know of one in particular in Unit 25 that comes over with his whole crew to try to scare off a resident hunter.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This helps separate the competition that guides have with hunters. The guides charge such a high price these days that it puts a lot of pressure on them to give there hunters a quality hunt. It would be better for all hunters because a lot of resident sheep hunters would be done hunting by the time the guides arrive.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** I think everybody would.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one would because the experience is what counts less competition is a better experience.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Chris Gossen

EG042813811

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**PROPOSAL 65 - 5 AAC 85.055 Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Establish a registration sheep hunt for residents in Unit 19C as follows:

Establish a residents-only registration hunt for sheep in 19C with a limit of one sheep with ¾-curl or less, excluding lambs and ewes accompanied by lambs, and excluding rams with broomed horns, from October 1-April 30. Prohibit use of aircraft for access to hunt sheep except into and out of the McGrath, Nikolai, and Telida airports. Hunters are required to call-in to the area management biologist within three days of the beginning and the end of each hunt, and hunters must report any sheep harvested after each hunt. The number of hunters in the field may be limited at the discretion of the area management biologist in order to prevent overharvest. Hunt will be closed by emergency order when the total harvest reaches ten sheep, or prior to this at the discretion of area management biologist. Standard horn sealing requirements do not apply for this hunt: horns must be sealed within 30 days of the close of season rather than 30 days after kill. This hunt is eligible for proxy hunting for elders over 65 years old.

**ISSUE:** Current regulations for harvesting Dall sheep in Unit 19 do not provide Alaska residents living in the communities of McGrath, Nikolai, Takotna, and Telida a reasonable opportunity to practice their recognized customary and traditional subsistence use of Dall sheep. Regulations currently provide for nonresident trophy hunters' needs, but are inadequate to provide for the needs of Alaska residents, especially those living in Unit 19.

For example, in 2011 79 nonresident hunters harvested 66 full-curl Dall sheep rams from Unit 19C and had an 84% success rate. 59 Alaska resident hunters from all areas harvested only ten full-curl rams and had only a 17% success rate. Four sheep hunters living in Unit 19 harvested zero sheep and had a 0% success rate.

Local residents of Unit 19 have a long term pattern of sheep hunting, recognized as customary and traditional by the Alaska Board of Game in 2010 (5 AAC 99.025(a)(10)), but most residents who wish to hunt sheep have not had a reasonable opportunity to do so for many years. Access during the current fall season is only possible via small aircraft or specialized shallow-draft boats and motors that are cost prohibitive to the majority of Alaskans, and especially to residents of Unit 19 where opportunities for cash income are very limited. In addition to the problems related to the timing of the current fall season, the full curl ram regulations in Unit 19C prevent most non-guided resident hunters from harvesting sheep, as full curl rams are scarce in the area due to regular high harvests by guided nonresident hunters.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Residents of Unit 19 will continue to suffer from the lack of a reasonable opportunity to harvest Dall sheep, a formerly important source of food and clothing in the area. In particular, elderly community members will continue to suffer from the lack of Dall sheep, an important and desired part of their diet that some have not had access to for decades. Younger generations will not be able to learn the knowledge and skills related to traditional patterns of sheep hunting, use, and respect that have long been an important part of the culture in Unit 19. Communities in the region will continue to suffer from a lack of Dall sheep meat during important community gatherings such as funeral potlatches and holiday gatherings. Skills and knowledge related to sheep hunting that have been developed over many generations will likely be lost within the next 20 years.

There will be a greater risk of food shortage in the future, as residents of Unit 19 currently depend almost completely on moose and black bear for meat. In the past, the ability to harvest other big game animals such as caribou and Dall sheep provided security against changes in the local moose population.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. This season will likely reduce competition between trophy hunters and subsistence hunters, as sheep harvested under this hunt will not be full-curl rams. Subsistence hunters will no longer need to attempt to harvest full-curl rams to meet their Dall sheep subsistence needs as is required under current regulations, and it is possible that slightly more full-curl rams will be available to trophy hunters as a result. Sheep with less than ¾ curl often provide a higher quality meat than full-curl rams, and sheep harvested in this season would have a higher quality skin with thicker wool, which is more desirable for use as clothing or sleeping mats than sheep harvested in the current season.

This season would not cause harm to the Dall sheep populations in Unit 19C, as area biologists have stated that an additional harvest of ten sheep would be sustainable in the region.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska residents would benefit, especially residents of Unit 19 who would be able to access Dall sheep via snow machines in winter. This would benefit the majority of residents of Unit 19 who do not have access to small aircraft or specially equipped shallow water boats and motors for hunting during the current fall season. Also, trophy hunters may benefit due to less competition from subsistence hunters for full-curl rams as stated previously.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** 1. Leaving the current Dall sheep hunting season as it currently stands. This was rejected because it does not provide an opportunity for Alaska residents living in the communities of McGrath, Nikolai, Takotna, and Telida a reasonable opportunity to follow for their recognized customary and traditional subsistence use of Dall sheep as described under (2).

2. Extending the Dall sheep season for Alaska residents beyond the current September 20 close of season. This would provide Alaska residents more of an opportunity to harvest Dall sheep than guided nonresidents, but would not address the problem of too few full-curl rams due to high harvests by trophy hunters during the current season. This would also possibly increase competition between sport and subsistence hunters in Unit 19.

**PROPOSED BY:** Nikolai Edzeno' Village Council

EG042913819

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**PROPOSAL 81 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts and 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Establish a nonresident Dall sheep drawing permit hunt for the Tok Management Area in Units 12, 13C and 20D as follows:

- Establish a separate Tok Management Area (TMA) draw permit for nonresidents for each hunt period (DS102 and DS103).
- Allocate a fixed 10% of TMA permits to nonresidents.
- Allow up to [no more than] 50% of nonresident permits to be issued to nonresidents hunting with a second-degree of kin relative.
- All nonresident applications for TMA permit hunts must include the following information: For the guide, supply name of guide or a number assigned by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department) by the hunt

number, or for second degree of kindred, list name of relative and relationship to the hunter. The permit drawing hunt application form will have to be revised to accommodate this requirement.

- Nonresident hunters that choose to hunt with a registered guide will be required to have their application completed and submitted by the same registered guide that will be contracting the hunt.
- Nonresident hunters that choose to hunt with a registered guide will also be required to have a guide-client agreement that is completed and signed by both the nonresident hunter and the registered guide they will be contracting the hunt with, prior to the drawing application deadline. A copy of this guide-client agreement must be provided to the Tok department office by the contracting guide prior to the draw application deadline.
- The guide must be registered for at least one Guide Use Area (GUA) within the TMA hunt area both during the year the application is submitted and the year the permit will be valid by the draw application deadline. For example, if a hunter applied for a permit for the application period of 2014, for a hunt that will be valid for the 2015 season, the registered guide would be required to be registered for at least one GUA within the TMA during the application period of 2014 and by January 1 of 2015. Any client who draws a permit with a guide registered in only one GUA of the TMA would only be allowed to hunt that GUA of the TMA and no other.
- Both the name of the nonresident hunter and the registered guide or a number provided by the department to the guide that will be contracting the hunt must be listed on the drawing application.
- Nonresident hunters must carry the guide-client agreement (dated prior to the drawing application deadline) in the field.

**ISSUE:** Clarify guide-client agreement requirements and nonresident drawing permit allocations for DS102 and DS103 (Tok Management Area Dall sheep permit).

There has been significant confusion about the current TMA guide-client agreement requirements and nonresident drawing permit allocations for DS102 and DS103 by the department.

While the Board of Game (board) finding (2007-173-BOG, dated March 12, 2007) was intended to provide direction to ADF&G about nonresident drawing allocation policy, and guide-client agreements, the intent of the finding has not been implemented consistently by the department, in particular, for the TMA drawings DS102 and DS103.

This has resulted in TMA draw hunt regulations and board findings not being implemented as originally intended by the board and allocation of TMA permits to recipients who have not completed a guide-client agreement with a guide who has a current GUA registration on file prior to the drawing.

Putting this proposed language into regulation will provide direction to the department, from the board, to properly implement the TMA guide-client agreement requirements and nonresident drawing permit allocations for DS102 and DS103 as originally intended by the board.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Confusion will continue, TMA draw hunt regulations and board findings will not be implemented as originally intended and permits will continue to be issued to unqualified recipients.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. It will clarify the guide-client agreement requirements and nonresident drawing permit allocations for DS102 and DS103; therefore, reducing confusion by the department, hunters, and guides about the application process and reduce the potential for allocation of permits to unqualified recipients.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Those applicants to the draw permit trying to follow the intent of the board regulations and findings for the draw permit areas including the TMA. Protection officers would benefit by being able to track those trying to circumvent the regulatory process.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Guides who prefer not to have current GUAs registered on file prior to the drawing.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Not requiring the guide-client agreement to go to the local ADF&G office in Tok. We rejected it because it helps department staff and wildlife protection officers to know the guides are following regulation and not circumventing the system. Department staff has already received complaints after the drawing which resulted in lengthy research. This would be better done before the drawing than after.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sue Entsminger and Matt Snyder

EG050313896

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**PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 92.540(3)(E). Controlled use areas.** Limit Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area to a walk in only area as follows:

In this day and age where sheep areas are going to draw hunts and pressure is continually mounting, the Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area (GMCUA) needs to revert back to the original intent when created, that makes sheep hunting in the GMCUA by walk-in only. This will put all hunters on the same playing field and result in a more limited harvest, within sustainable levels, without having to go to a permit hunt.

**ISSUE:** The use of pack animals in the GMCUA for sheep hunting. The original intent and creation of the GMCUA was to create a walk-in area to protect the very small population of sheep that inhabit this area.

Although the GMCUA was originally created/established as a walk in area for sheep hunting, it was later modified to allow pack animals for moose and caribou, but somehow it was left to include the sheep. This is a very unique area that was created to protect the small population of sheep, is road accessible and is very susceptible to overharvest. Use of horses to hunt these sheep has increased in recent years and in fall of 2012 there were three sheep harvested by horseback hunters and two by walk in hunters.

Hunters have traditionally walked into this area until recent years, with the use of pack animals a rarity in the past. This included mostly resident hunters but also includes a few guided nonresidents walking into this area in the past. Because hunters have traditionally walked into the GMCUA to hunt sheep, sheep harvest has been maintained at sustainable levels simply due to the challenging nature of this hunt area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Unsustainable harvest levels could occur, the area may need to be converted to a permit hunt, and the original intent to have this as a walk-in area for sheep will not be met.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** It reverts the sheep hunt part of the GMCUA back to walk-in only, which follows the “original” intent and creation of the GMCUA. It puts everyone on the same playing field and protects the small sheep population from potentially being overharvested.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The sheep population in the GMCUA and all walk in sheep hunters that are willing to put the time in to hunt this incredibly unique area.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The very few people who use pack animals, who should not be allowed to use pack animals to hunt this area according to the original intent and creation of the GMCUA.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None, as we feel it was a mistake that led to the use of pack animals for sheep and we would like to see it revert back to the original intent and creation of the GMCUA.

**PROPOSED BY:** Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee EG050113885

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**PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Create a youth Dall sheep hunt in 20B remainder as follows:

Sheep, remainder of Unit 20

One sheep, drawing: July 20 – August 5

Qualified youth hunters, one drawing permit per lifetime of hunter.

Youth hunters must have successfully completed a Alaska Department of Fish and Game approved Hunter Education Course and must be accompanied by a licensed resident adult that is at least 21 years of age or older. Proxy hunting is not allowed during this hunt. Biologists to determine the appropriate amount of permits to be offered.

**ISSUE:** Create an interior of Alaska youth sheep hunt. Currently youths can participate in regular season sheep hunts, but often are unable to compete in the field with older more seasoned adults.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Our hunting tradition will decline over time as our youths interest moves to other activities.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No, only provides a quality hunting experience without heavy competition from adults for our resident youth.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Youths ages 10 to 17, who draw a permit and are given this opportunity to hunt with an adult, often a parent, for several days above tree line.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Youths turning 18 or older would not eligible for drawing or the hunt.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Considered asking for a ram only hunt, but creation of a ram or ewe only hunt has the potential to make their ultimate youth hunt into a horrible experience should they accidentally take ram on a ewe hunt or if ram is one inch short. We can avoid the possibility of that happening with an any sheep hunt. Also considered starting the season later, but Yukon Territory starts their sheep hunt July 15, why not in Alaska?

**PROPOSED BY:** Dave Machacek

EG032913741

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**PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC 92.990. Definitions:** Establish a definition for “broken” as it pertains to full-curl horn as follows:

Define the term "broken" as it pertains to the definition of "full-curl horn" and Dall sheep.

**ISSUE:** The term "broken" is used in 5AAC 92.990(19) and states that; full-curl horn of a male (ram) Dall sheep means that:

- (A) the tip of at least one horn has grown through 360 degrees of a circle described by the outer surface of the horn, as viewed from the side, or
- (B) both horns are broken, or
- (C) the sheep is at least eight years of age as determined by horn growth annuli.

If the Board of Game chooses to define this term it should be based upon recommendations from the Department of Fish and Game (department) and the public. Consideration should be given to other areas in North America where the term 'broken' is defined. Alaska Wildlife Troopers (AWT) will be able to comment as to the enforceability of this term and will be able to assist in drafting the definition.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The term broken continues to be a problem when faced with enforcement of this regulation. Further, the public has difficulty determining if a Dall sheep is legal when attempting to take the animal under (B) of this regulation. If "broken" is not defined, both the public and enforcement will continue to make their best guess as to the boards intent.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. By defining this term, the public will have a better understanding of a legal animal. Further, AWT and department biologists will have a defined term to work with.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All users of this resource, the department and AWT will benefit through the definition of this term.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Persons wishing to shoot Dall sheep under the 'broken' exception when the sheep does not satisfy the perceived requirement.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Not defining this term. Rejected because it is a problem that needs to be addressed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Wildlife Troopers

EG043013839

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**PROPOSAL 170 - 5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.** Modify the definition for full-curl horn as follows:

(19) full-curl horn of a male (ram) Dall sheep means that

(A) the tip of at least one horn has grown through 360 degrees described by the outer surface of the horn, as viewed from the side, or

**(B) the tip of at least one horn has grown through the plane of the bridge of the nose, as viewed from the side, and determined using the Department of Fish and Game's standardized "sheep horn jig"; or**

(c) both horns are broken, or

(d) the sheep is at least eight years of age as determined by horn growth annuli.

**ISSUE:** The definition of a full-curl sheep.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The ongoing confusion among hunters, inconsistencies in application and enforcement by state employees, and increasing (and unnecessary) animosity of the hunting public toward the Department of Fish and Game will continue. Fewer hunters will try sheep hunting for the first time, and others will quit after bad experiences with the current definition and application of a legal sheep. Nonresident hunters will continue to hear bad reports about Alaska's poorly defined and applied "full-curl" rule, and some will decide not to hunt in Alaska.



**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Fewer sublegal rams will be harvested if hunters understand how the definition will be applied, i.e. the standardized jig will be used.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The intent is that everyone involved in sheep hunting now or in the future and the state employees that determine legal sheep will all benefit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Can't think of anyone who would suffer from a more understandable, field-useable, and enforceable regulation.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Wait for the Division of Wildlife Conservation to come up with a better definition of a legal ram. Rejected because the wait has been too long and these problems persist to the detriment of everyone.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tony Russ

EG050113861

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**PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 92.990. Definitions.** Modify the definition of full-curl horn as follows:

(19) full-curl horn of a male (ram) Dall sheep means that

(A) A full-curl horn, whose tip of at least one horn has grown through 360 degrees of a circle described by the outer surface of the horn, as viewed from the side.

(B) both horns are broken, or

(C) the sheep is at least eight years of age as determined by horn growth annul, and

**(D) any ram is legal until the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has a specific, repeatable method that all state employees are mandated to use to determine if a set of sheep horns is legal or sublegal. Also, this method will be in writing with graphics included and this paper will be available at all times to the public from any Alaska Department of Fish and Game office that seals sheep horns, and available on the Department website.**

**ISSUE:** The definition of a full-curl sheep.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Hunters will be uncertain how their sheep horns will be judged by enforcement and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (department). Hunters will not continue sheep hunting, more hunters will not start sheep hunting, sheep hunters will not bring their horns in for sealing, and hunters will continue to complain about the department and wildlife enforcement personnel, and those departments in general. Nonresidents will continue to hear about Alaska's inconsistent enforcement of their full-curl definition and some will continue to choose to hunt Canada instead of Alaska.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Fewer sublegal rams will be taken if hunters can actually see and understand, before they go sheep hunting, how the state employees (department and Wildlife Troopers) will apply the full-curl definition.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All hunters and the state (after the paper has been written and made available).

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** State employees who have to come up with this standardized procedure.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Change the regulation to make it simpler – difficult to do if we want to harvest the same average-age ram. And, we would also have to then completely re-educate the hunting public and the state employees involved in sheep sealing and enforcement of the regulation.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tony Russ

EG050113864

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**PROPOSAL 89 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Establish and muzzleloader and archery hunt for Dall sheep in Unit 13A as follows:

The preferred solution would to create a primitive weapons hunt for Unit 13A allowing muzzleloader and archery equipment only for harvesting full curl Dall rams. This would reduce pressure on the herd. A less preferred solution would be to create a drawing permit hunt. The boundaries could be from the Glenn Highway down Caribou Creek then up Flume creek and over the pass to McDougal Creek to Flat Creek to Little Nelchina River and back to the Glenn Highway.

**ISSUE:** The Horn Mountains in Unit 13A receive a tremendous amount of Dall sheep hunting pressure because of easy off-road vehicle access resulting in substantial pressure on the resource, both from sheep hunters and from incidental harvest from caribou and moose hunters. This results in a poor quality hunting experience, tremendous pressure on the sheep herd, and user conflicts.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued heavy hunting pressure is detrimental to the Dall sheep population and creates a poor hunting experience. This area is used by considerable numbers of hunters during the Nelchina caribou hunt.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Allowing muzzleloaders and archery equipment only would reduce the take of marginally legal rams and improve the quality of the herd and improve the quality of the hunting experience.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Archery and muzzleloader hunters will benefit from an improved hunting experience. The Dall sheep population would benefit from decreased hunting pressure.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Moose and caribou hunters who hunt sheep incidental to their moose or caribou hunt.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** A drawing permit hunt could be considered but hunting opportunities for muzzleloader hunters are severely limited in Alaska and should be expanded.

**PROPOSEDBY:** Scott Peterson  
EG042212540

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**PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Modify the resident sheep hunt and bag limit for Unit 13 as follows:

Increase hunter opportunity by eliminating draw requirement (DS160 and DS165) for resident sheep hunters in Unit 13D beginning in 2014. Nonresident draw tags (DS260 and DS265) to be fixed to approximately the current quota of 10 to 12 tags. Return entire area to full curl requirement.

Although sheep numbers in Unit 13D are still well below historic highs, the area is known for its trophy potential and is likely to attract a percentage of resident hunters away from areas of high pressure. The proposal also allows nonresident tags to be maintained at current levels for no net loss of opportunity to that user group.

**ISSUE:** Several major sheep hunting areas in the state are seeing increased pressure from both resident and nonresident hunters. This is most notable in the Central Alaska Range and Brooks Range, both areas which are well known and are served by a number of transporters. For example, during the 2005-2010 time frame, large increases in the number of resident hunters were seen in Units 20A (+28%), 26C (+93%), and 25A (+87%).

The increase in sheep hunter numbers in these popular areas has resulted in reduced hunt quality and localized overcrowding for many users, as well as both real and perceived conflicts between resident and nonresident guided hunters. It is also likely that a high percentage of the mature rams are being harvested in these areas on an annual basis. These issues are evidenced by the numerous proposals in recent years to restrict certain user groups or convert sheep areas to draw.

At least some of the increase in hunting pressure in these Units can be attributed to the displacement of resident sheep hunters from Units 13D and 14A by low levels of mature rams in 2005-2007 and the subsequent implementation of the new draw areas in 2008. This reduction in hunter opportunity has caused significant hunter dissatisfaction both directly through loss of hunting area, and indirectly by increasing hunter numbers in popular units.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF THIS PROBLEM IS NOT SOLVED?** Unless hunter opportunity is increased in other areas of the state, there will continue to be high levels of hunting pressure in the certain open areas. This will result in further hunter dissatisfaction and additional proposals to the Board of Game to restrict certain user groups, allow some type of resident advantage, or convert additional areas to draw.

**DOES YOUR PROPOSAL ADDRESS IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED? IF SO, HOW?** I believe the elimination of the resident draw requirement for Unit 13D will help reduce the rise in hunting pressure and the various user conflicts and hunter dissatisfaction currently at issue in the Brooks Range and Central Alaska Range. In addition, I believe that it will have no significant biological impact on the sheep populations of the Chugach Range.

The creation of the Unit 13D draw areas were in response to a combination of heavy hunting pressure and a reduced sheep population. This had resulted in poor hunt quality and the annual harvest of a high percentage of the mature rams and was a justifiable decision at that time. However, since the elimination of over-the-counter tags in Unit 13D the number of mature rams in the Unit 13D appears to have since stabilized and success rates for hunters in these areas have increased to a notable degree. As examples, between 2008 and 2010 the success rate for DS165 increased from 5% to 35%, and DS265 (nonresident) increased from 40% to 100%. That the success rate for all Unit 13D tags are currently well above statewide averages indicates that some additional harvest is possible.

Based on typical pre-2006 harvest rates for resident hunters and the current harvest rate for nonresident hunters, I estimate that harvest levels for Unit 13D West (DS160/260) and Unit 13D East (DS165/265) combined would be approximately 20 to 30 rams under this proposal. Although slightly higher than the current harvest under the draw program, it would still be significantly lower than the combined resident/non-resident harvest of approximately 45 to 70 rams from these areas between 2000 and 2005. It should be noted that Unit 13D has traditionally been popular with guides, and subsequently non-resident hunters have historically taken the larger percentage of the sheep from Unit 13D. By keeping non-resident hunters on a limited draw, the total harvest will remain well under pre-2005 levels while still having an impact on overall hunter distribution in the state.

During discussion and comment on numerous sheep proposals in the last Board of Game cycle, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) stated a number of times that full curl regulations are an

adequate guard against biological damage to the resource. If this is the case, then there should be no major biological concerns with allowing a measured amount of additional harvest in 13D. In exchange for this additional harvest in Unit 13D, hunt quality and available rams will be increased for hunters in other areas of the state.

**WHO WILL BENEFIT IF YOUR PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** Resident hunters will benefit by having increased hunting opportunity in a high quality trophy area and decreased competition in other areas. Nonresident guided hunters in other areas of the state will benefit from a decrease in competition from residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER IF YOUR PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED?** Nonresident guided hunters in Unit 13D will see increased competition for available rams from resident hunters. ADF&G will no longer be able to tightly control harvest in these areas. Given the typical low success rate (~20%) for resident hunters in open areas, this is unlikely to be a significantly issue.

**LIST ANY OTHER SOLUTIONS YOU CONSIDERED AND WHY YOU REJECTED THEM.** 1.) I considered the inclusion of portions of Unit 14A in this proposal, which would create additional high quality opportunity for hunters. However Unit 14A is more easily accessible and may not be able to sustain the amount of pressure at this time. If the ADF&G believes that portions of Unit 14A could again handle harvest ticket/full curl regulations, this would be a preferred option.

2.) I considered the effect of also eliminating the draw requirement for non-resident hunters. However with the significantly higher success rates of non-resident guided hunters and the currently low sheep populations, I believe that this would again result in unsustainable harvest levels. If the guide concession program currently under consideration goes in to effect, this may be an acceptable option.

**PROPOSED BY:** Isaac Rowland EG050112619  
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**PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 85.055 Hunting season and bag limit for Dall sheep.** Change the Dall sheep bag limit to full curl, convert the draw hunts to general hunts for Units 13 and 14A, and limit nonresident allocation as follows:

All Dall sheep hunts in all of Unit 13 and Unit 14A would become full curl only with general hunts. No drawing in these areas, with nonresidents limited entry (less than 5 tags to nonresidents).

**ISSUE:** Resident sheep hunters have too little roadside access to sheep.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued discontent between residents, nonresidents and guides.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** It allows Alaska residents areas with ease of access.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The Anchorage resident who has a short window of opportunity.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonresidents and a few guides.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Nonresidents allowed to hunt sheep, reducing the number of statewide.

**PROPOSED BY:** Steve Flory Sr. EG050912706  
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**PROPOSAL 92 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Modify bag limit to full curl in Units 14A and 13D as follows:

I would like to see a return to the full curl, eight years old or broomed on both sides harvest limitation.

**ISSUE:** Current regulations allow for hunters who have drawn a sheep tag in Units 14A and 13D West to harvest any ram without size limitations. This leads to the harvest of rams who have not yet had a chance to breed. The sheep population in all of the Chugach is depressed, which has necessarily led to the greatly decreased hunt opportunity under the drawing permit system. Killing immature rams before they have a chance to breed and an under harvest of mature, old rams is occurring under these regulations. Too many hunters with these permits kill the first ram they come to. There are more large old rams than there are permits and the rams are dying of old age without being harvested. If we only harvested mature, full curl rams from this unit we could double the number of permits issued.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The population will not rebound as quickly, and less rams will reach breeding age and trophy status. There will continue to be decreased hunter opportunity and rams will continue to die of old age before hunters have an opportunity to harvest them. Under current any ram regulation, less permits are issued because it is easier to be 'successful' because of the harvest of immature rams.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** More rams will live to be full curl trophies and breed-able.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All trophy sheep hunters, who will see more sheep live to trophy age. All sheep hunters as more permits could be offered under more selective full curl regulation.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Those who are willing to kill a sub-mature ram and get drawn for the permit.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None

**PROPOSED BY:** Daniel Montgomery

EG043012598

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*Note: The Board of Game does not have authority to remove the guide requirement for hunting certain big game animals or to increase permit and tag fees.*

**PROPOSAL 109 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Season and bag limits.** Open resident hunting seasons ten days before nonresident seasons, allocate 90 percent of harvest to residents; remove guide requirements, and increase tag and permit fees for Central/Southwest Region Units as follows:

ALL resident hunting seasons for ALL species 10 days prior to nonresident hunters. Remove the guiding requirement for sheep, goats, and brown bears. Raise ALL nonresident harvest tags and permit fees. Allocate 90% of harvests to residents and 10% to non-residents.

**ISSUE:** I would like the Board of Game to address the problem of favoring guides and their nonresident clients over the needs of Alaskan Residents. Specifically, I would like the Board of Game to address the declining hunting opportunities residents are facing and the competition we face from the guiding industry in filling our freezers.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Residents will continue to see their hunting opportunities diminish. The Board of Game and the Guiding industry will continue to claim that non-resident hunters provide monies for the management of our game and bring in much needed dollars to the State when in fact they don't. Residents live here, spend their money YEAR round, buy services and goods YEAR round and support a multitude of businesses in their pursuit of game. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game spends about \$42 million dollars per year in support of the Commercial Fishing Industry, yet only receives about \$16 million in revenue from the Commercial Fishing Industry. Clearly, if the Department of Fish and

Game--and the Board of Game --were concerned about much needed dollars, we can find savings in other avenues.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** You bet. We live here and these are OUR resources. Not the feds, not nonresidents, and surely not the Guides. The Board of Game needs to start to manage our wildlife for Alaskan Residents and we have seen for too long now, declining populations of our game and most especially, declining hunting opportunities for us and our children. The future does not look bright if we continue--if you, the Board of Game, continue, to manage our wildlife species the way you have. We have an excellent Department of Fish and Game--some of the best and brightest biologists in the world--yet your actions, and in many cases, lack of action--has made them ineffective as managers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaskan Residents--and that's all that really matters. That and our game resources. This should be the metric for each and every decision you make. Does it help the Alaskan resident--current and future? Your last meeting on the Interior failed in this regard on several fronts.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Guides and the guiding industry and that is fine with the vast majority of ALASKANS.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Continue on the same management path as you have--and that is unacceptable. It is time to put Alaskans first. It is time to think of Future Alaskans-- specifically, our children. These are our game resources--we expect you to manage them for our benefit and for our children's benefit. The Board of Game--current and past-- has failed to do this, and I reject this as being acceptable.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jake Sprankle EG043012587  
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**PROPOSAL 110 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open resident sheep seasons seven days before nonresident seasons for the Central/Southwest Region Units as follows:

Resident hunting season for Dall sheep shall be August 3rd to September 20th. Nonresident hunting season shall be from August 10th to September 20th. Drawing permit areas will start seven days earlier for Alaska residents and if there is a split season, the second half will be shortened by seven days for nonresidents such that residents can start the second half seven days prior to nonresidents.

**ISSUE:** The Board of Game needs to address the lack of full curl legal rams available to Alaska residents. While sheep populations have been stable to slightly declining, the availability of legal rams, much less trophy rams, has been significantly reduced and is in serious decline. Success rates for resident sheep hunters will never be on par with nonresidents if not allowed an earlier jump from the efficiency of their guides.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaskan resident hunters will continue to suffer from the mismanagement of this species by the Board of Game. Alaskan youth will never have the opportunity afforded to their parents and grandparents to successfully hunt healthy populations of Dall sheep with ample populations of large rams. Alaska wildlife belongs to all Alaskans and these resources should be managed as such.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Resident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt and avoid conflicts with guides and their clients. Nonresident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt by avoiding conflicts with resident hunters. Transport services associated with sheep hunting will improve as this will lessen the bottleneck on t ransporters seen at the beginning of each season, especially during poor weather. This may also increase the safety of hunters and transporters by spreading out the season and users more. Current Alaska residents and future Alaskans may be more interested in hunting Dall sheep, its management, and the future of Dall sheep hunting if they had greater opportunity to locate and harvest a legal ram, much less quality rams.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska residents, Alaska youth, and future Alaskans. Dall sheep populations may also improve as more people may feel like they have a chance at successfully harvesting a quality ram and will be more interested in the management of the resource. This benefits Alaska, all of Alaska's game resources, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, though some will say nonresident hunters, nonresident guides, and resident guides may suffer. Harvest records, however, show that resident sheep hunters are much less successful than nonresidents because of their guides. This is largely due to time guides can give to pre-season scouting, which is done mostly by fixed wing aircraft. While success rates for resident hunters will hopefully increase, there is little reason to think that nonresident success rates will decline significantly. Pre-season scouting will still be available to guides. Sheep populations will not suffer directly - again because resident hunter success rates are consistently low. Future sheep populations, however, may suffer and receive little support or interest, if today's youth and future generations cannot hunt healthy populations of sheep, as is currently the case. You will be hard pressed to find any Alaska resident who is not a guide or associated with a guiding business, who does not favor this proposal. If not sure whether to favor Alaska residents over nonresidents, please look at any other state and how they manage their resources for the benefit of their residents and not for the financial benefit of a few.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Close nonresident hunting of Dall sheep for five years or until healthy populations of sheep with sufficient populations of legal rams is re-established. Charge resident hunters non-resident harvest fees during this interim to offset any loss of funding from loss of non-resident tags. This would be the best management practice the Board of Game (board) could do, as it would best serve current and future Alaska residents, and most of all best serve the Dall sheep population as a whole. I rejected this solution based on past performance of the board where political and financial interests of a few, trumped the best interests of Alaska residents, Alaska game resources, and Alaska itself.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jake Sprankle

EG042412552

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**PROPOSAL 111 - 5 AAC 85.055. Seasons and bag limits for Dall Sheep.** Open resident sheep seasons seven days before nonresident seasons for the Central/Southwest Region Units as follows:

Region IV Units - Season Dates for Dall Sheep:

Residents: August 5th – September 20th

Nonresidents: August 12th – September 20th

**ISSUE:** Preference for Alaska residents to have an early start date for Dall sheep hunting.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaskans will keep experiencing conflict in the field with commercial operators (guides) and overcrowding will diminish the quality of the hunt for residents. All of the western states have high allocations of game (usually 90%) for their residents and about 50% of Alaska's sheep are harvested by nonresidents, which would

never be allowed in other states. The lack of a quality experience and the diminishing number of legal rams is causing a reduction in the number of Alaskans wanting to hunt and enjoy a resource we all own.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** More legal rams would be harvested by residents and our youth would have an opportunity to have a positive experience sheep hunting. All sheep hunters would not be trying to enter the field on the same day and the air taxi services wouldn't be so overloaded – generally a safer situation for all hunters. An early start date would extend the time for entering the field, creating less conflict between resident and nonresident hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Alaskans – especially our youth. Nonresidents will also have a better experience because many residents will be out of the field when they enter creating more solitude for their hunt.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Commercial operators will complain but they are using a resource we all own. Other states don't force nonresidents to use a guide and they have high game allocations for their residents (usually 90%). Nonresident guides can't legally hunt sheep, goats, and brown bears themselves but they enjoy and make money on a resource owned by all Alaskans. This is not anti guide or nonresident but PRO – ALASKAN.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The Board of Game has been very kind to the guiding industry at the expense of the resident hunter. Nonresident tag fees bring a lot of money to the state and this helps support the Department of Fish and Game. How do other western states survive giving their residents high allocations of game? Other western states require nonresidents to apply for drawing permits (elk, deer, antelope, bear, sheep, goat, moose, cougar, etc.) 6 to 8 months in advance of the season, they have a preference point system, and high tag fees with no guide requirements. They make money to support their programs and give their residents very (usually 90%) high allocations of game. Nonresidents can come to Alaska the day before hunting season and buy a nonresident tag over the counter the day before the season at a fraction of the price other states charge. Why doesn't Alaska manage game for residents and our Department of Fish & Game like other states? If the Board of Game doesn't start showing some preference to residents, Alaskans need to contact the governor and their representatives asking them to confirm board members who put residents as priority #1 or vote for politicians that support a preference for Alaska residents.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Lamal and Darcy Etcheverry EG043012578  
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**PROPOSAL 112- 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open resident sheep seasons five days before nonresident seasons for Central/Southwest Region Units as follows:

Region II Units - Season Dates for Dall Sheep: Residents:  
August 5<sup>th</sup> - September 25th Nonresidents: August 10 -  
September 20th

**ISSUE:** Early start date and later ending date for Alaskan resident sheep hunters

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The overcrowding will just get worse. The Brooks Range was a zoo in 2011, the other ranges will become that way soon. If there isn't a fix there will be more upset hunters. Then we will get some new Board of Game members

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Alaskan residents will be given a better chance to enjoy this state to harvest meat for their family. There won't be such a scramble by so many different hunters trying to get any legal sheep,

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska residents and Alaskan game!

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Guides.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Make ALL guides in Alaska that guide out of state hunters for sheep, bear and goat be Alaskan residents (live here year round) not just for the guiding season) if an out of state hunters needs a guide to hunt these animals, then out of state guides are not qualified. I rejected this idea because that would be a huge hit to the guiding industry.



**PROPOSED BY:** Jacques Etcheverry

EG043012593

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**PROPOSAL 113 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open resident sheep hunting seasons five days before nonresident seasons for the Central/Southwest Region as follows:

Region II Units - Season Dates for Dall Sheep: Residents:  
August 5th to September 20th Nonresidents: August 10th to  
September 20th

**ISSUE:** The Board of Game needs to address the serious problem of overcrowding at the start of the sheep season and the lack of legal rams for the resident hunters. Alaska wildlife is 1st and foremost for the Alaskan resident.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The conflicts between resident and nonresident hunters will continue to increase and the overall successful hunting experience for both groups will decline.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Both the resident and the nonresident hunters will have an improved hunt by avoiding conflicts between the two groups. This will also improve safety by not having everyone rush into the field at the same time.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Alaskan residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** In my opinion no one would suffer, but the non-resident and resident guides will say that they will suffer.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?**

**PROPOSED BY:** Leonard Jewkes

EG042912573

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**PROPOSAL 114 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits.** Open resident hunting seasons seven days before nonresident seasons for Central/Southwest Region Units as follows:

Whatever opening date is determined for any species, the new regulation would indicate the opening for nonresidents would be seven days later.

**ISSUE:** Big Game hunting for residents opens seven days before non-residents for all big game.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** This proposal will allow resident hunters to have a seven day early access period to hunt game populations without interference from nonresident hunters who may be utilizing professional guide services or hunting on their own. Opening day numbers would be thinned out, transporters would be able to cater to more people, or at least spread the movement of people over more days. The result would be a less chaotic experience for everyone.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal would improve the hunting experience for the Alaska resident. Our State Constitution indicates the wildlife resources belong to the people of Alaska. It should only be considered as fair for the people to have access to our wildlife without interference from nonresidents. Other States use staggered starts with nonresidents for hunting seasons and the same benefits should be extended to Alaskans.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone will benefit from this proposal. Residents will have an opportunity to pursue game in a less crowded field. Nonresidents would have the same type of experience. With opening day being thinned out the remainder of each season would be much smoother.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** I can't see any group suffering from this proposal. Hunting pressure would be thinned, commercial services would be spread out and Alaska would be in line with many of the other hunting states.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions were considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Terry Marquette EG042812566  
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**PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits.** Limit sheep drawing permits to 10% for nonresidents for Central/Southwest Regions as follows:

Drawing by permit only with 90% of the permits going to residents and 10% of the permits for nonresidents. The total number of permits for any one given area will not exceed harvest of 40% of the legal Rams in the hunting area.

**ISSUE:** I would like the boards full consideration to consider moving ALL Dall sheep hunting in Region IV to drawing permit only, limiting the number of non-resident permits to 10% or less of the total permits allowed for any specific area. The 10% allocation of this state owned resource to nonresidents should be more than adequate and provide a preference for the residents of the state that own the resource.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Several of the problems already exist and are getting worse. The state is not managing the resource to the fullest potential both monetarily and for trophy quality or age structure to promote better hunting and more funding available to manage. Many areas saturated with guides non-resident hunters are becoming more and more exclusive for guides to lock down access by threat and air taxes flying in the area trying to keep hunting areas they think they own private. Area conflicts are increasing with hunters and guided nonresident hunters.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, both the resource harvest will improve age structure and quality of the trophy's hunted and limit hunter conflicts. Increased management dollars to promote a healthier number of sheep and better understanding of actual sheep numbers by regular census taking.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All hunter in general will benefit with less user conflicts and improved trophy quality and opportunities. Providing a quoted for both residents and non residents should allow for plenty of opportunity.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Better planning for all users to apply for a permit would not be considered suffering, just making an adjustment. Guides may feel they are suffering with a limited client base, because now they can do most anything they want.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Limit the amount of non resident sheep hunters to a simple 10% permit quota of the resource take-in each area based on the last 10 year harvest average to drawing permit and leaving all current harvest tag only areas still open to residents. I feel the drawing permit system needs more participation to generate additional revenue for the state to improve state wide sheep management.

**PROPOSED BY:** Doug Lammers EG042912570  
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**PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits.** Limit drawing permits to 10% for nonresidents for Central/Southwest Region Units as follows:

Nonresidents will only be granted 10% of the hunting permits offered for any big game hunting permit draw.

**ISSUE:** In Region IV (Central/Southwest) Units, nonresident hunters will be limited to receiving no more than 10% of the permits issued for any hunt drawing.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The wildlife resources of Alaska belong to the residents of Alaska first and foremost. It is only fair that the bulk of hunting draw permits go to Alaskan residents first and a smaller portion be extended to nonresidents. Extending 10% of any hunting draw coincides with the percentage extended by other States for similar hunting permit draws. Without this nonresident limitation Alaskans who desire to use this resource pay the application fee (which is non refundable) and consequently get bumped by a nonresident are being denied access to their own resource.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal secures the Alaskan resident as having first priority status for acquiring big game permits through the drawing process.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The Alaskan resident will benefit from this proposal.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one will suffer.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Terry Marquette EG042812567  
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**PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits.** Allocate 90% of drawing permits to residents for Central/Southwest Region hunts and exclude nonresidents in hunts with less than ten permits as follows:

A minimum of 90% of drawing permits will go to Alaska residents for all species. If a certain Unit has less than 10 permits available nonresidents are not eligible to participate in that drawing.

**ISSUE:** Drawing permit preference for Alaska residents – All species.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaska needs to put a cap of 10% on nonresident participation in drawing permits. This will put us in line with the other western states that have preferences for their residents which is usually 90% for drawing permits.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** An Alaskan preference for drawing permits will improve the quality of the hunt for resident hunters and give more opportunities to our youth. This will take away a lot of the conflict with sheep, goats, and brown bear where nonresidents are forced to hire a guide.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Alaskans.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The commercial operators (guides) will complain on sheep, goats, and brown bears but the other western states don't force nonresidents to use a guide for any species. The guides don't support preference points for residents or a high allocation of permits going to resident hunters. The commercial operators are using a resource we all own and residents would like the Board of Game to adopt proposals that reduce conflict in the field between guides and resident hunters.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The Board of Game has been very kind to the guiding industry at the expense of the resident hunter. Nonresident tag fees bring a lot of money to the state and this helps support the Department of Fish and Game. How do other western states survive giving their residents high allocations of game? Other western states require nonresidents to apply for drawing permits (elk, deer, antelope, bear, sheep, goat, moose, cougar, etc.) six to eight months in advance of the season, they have a preference point system, and high tag fees with no guide requirements. They make money to support their programs and give their residents very (usually 90%) high allocations of game. Nonresidents can come to Alaska the day before hunting season and buy a nonresident tag over the counter the day before the season at a fraction of the price other states charge. Why doesn't Alaska manage game for residents and our Department of Fish and Game like other states? If the Board of Game doesn't start showing some preference to residents, Alaskans need to contact the governor and their representatives asking them to confirm board members who put residents as priority #1 or vote for politicians that support a preference for Alaska residents.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Lamal

EG043012581

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**PROPOSAL 118 - 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures.** Develop a permit allocation formula for second degree of kindred hunters in Units 10, 13, and 14 as follows:

We suggest that nonresident drawing permit hunt success be established on a 75 and up to 25 percent basis with the up to twenty-five percent provided to second degree of kindred hunters.

**ISSUE:** Second degree of kindred allocation within drawing permit hunts. In many cases where nonresident hunter opportunity has been limited to drawing permit hunts and guide required species, there are very few permits available. Professional hunting guides have to maintain their business overhead and land use authorizations based on the hope that they will have clients who draw a permit. Second degree of kindred drawing permit success is growing. This factor works against a guide business owner whose clients also compete for these permits. We would like the Board of Game to develop an allocation formula that provides for second degree of kindred opportunity but also allows for a guide business owner to have knowledge that there are permits available for guided hunting opportunity.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Second degree of kindred drawing permit success will continue to marginalize or eliminate guide business owners and their contribution to the State.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, guided hunting provided a very important part of the rural Alaska economy. Second degree of kindred hunters have a much higher level of no-show which leaves opportunity wasted for other hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Professional guide business owners who need some assurance that they will have a chance for their clients to draw permits.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Some second degree of kindred hunters.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Status quo: does not provide for a viable business plan.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Professional Hunters Association Inc.

EG050412640

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**PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 85.055(a)(7). Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Reduce the permit allocation and modify the bag limit for Unit 14C Dall sheep as follows:

Department of Fish and Game biologists assigned to Unit 14C should be given greater discretion in determining the number of permits issued, and conditions placed on permits. Until the cause of the decline in the health of Dall

sheep in Chugach State Park is better understood by qualified biologists, the total number of permits issued should be reduced by at least 50% and the full curl rule removed, or relaxed.

**ISSUE:** The decline in health of Dall sheep in Chugach State Park which is demonstrated in part by the decline in population of Dall sheep in Chugach State Park.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Until we know what the cause of the decline may be we cannot predict what will happen if the decline in health is not addressed.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The proposal is aimed at giving qualified biologists greater flexibility in managing the hunt of Dall sheep so that the health of Dall sheep may be improved.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Hunters and wildlife viewers alike.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Professional guides and the ADF&G will lose revenue if the number of permits is reduced.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** A temporary ban on hunting of Dall Sheep in Chugach State Park was considered, but this has been rejected because we hope that if given the authority to micro manage the hunt, and the flexibility to experiment with removal of the full curl mandate, the department's wildlife biologists will do the right thing for our wildlife.

**PROPOSED BY:** Kneeland Taylor EG050112618  
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**Proposal 137 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Issue more tags for Chugach Park Dall sheep drawing (DS123) as follows:

<b>Units and bag limits</b>	<b>Resident Open season</b>	<b>Nonresident Open season</b>
14 (c) DS123 area 1 ram with full curl horn or larger by DS123 drawing, <b><u>at least 3 tags will be issued, up to 6 tags may be issued</u></b> ....	<b><u>Aug. 10-Sept. 30</u></b>	<b><u>Aug. 10-Sept. 30</u></b>

**Issue:** DS123 was established several years ago to provide a very limited opportunity to harvest trophy Dall sheep in previously closed areas of Chugach State Park. Currently only one tag is given annually. Although this hunt was opposed by some that prefer sheep are not hunted in the Park, there have been no conflicts to date. My wife was lucky enough to draw this tag and I was impressed at the number of mature legal rams in the area. There were at least six legal rams in the South portion of this area (Suicide Peaks) and, although we did not hunt the South Eagle River portion, pilots reported several legal rams also in this area. If Ram Valley is also re-opened this would add additional legal rams to the total. There has been an average of less than one ram taken from this area since it has opened. This area is also open for the Chugach Governor's tag and at least one ram has been taken from this area with the Governor's tag. It is unlikely that this area will be used regularly by the Governor's tag hunter because there is a high probability that larger rams are found elsewhere in the Chugach in any given year. This area is less than 1% of the total sheep habitat in the Chugach draw areas.

Sheep drawing tags are some of the most popular in Alaska and we should take every opportunity to expand opportunity, especially in areas near population centers such as Chugach State Park.

An alternative would be to split up this area and issue one or two tags for each section. Example: South Eagle River (1-2 tags), Ram valley (1 tag), Suicide Peaks (2 tags).

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The majority of the rams in this area will continue to die of old age.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, presently there is very little harvest, no harvest in many years.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Sheep hunters. Those willing to make the effort to access this area after being lucky enough to draw the longest odds tag in Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Persuade the area biologist to issue more tags area. This has been discussed and was not well received.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist EG050712684  
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**PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Create a new drawing hunt in Chugach State Park closed areas for Dall sheep as follows:

<b>Units and bag limits</b>	<b>Resident Open season</b>	<b>Nonresident Open season</b>
<b><u>14 (C)</u></b>	<b><u>Day after Labor Day Sept 30</u></b>	<b><u>Day after Labor Day-Sept 30</u></b>
<b><u>Drainages:</u></b>		
<b><u>Falls Creek,</u></b>		
<b><u>South Fork of</u></b>		
<b><u>Eagle River,</u></b>		
<b><u>McHugh Creek,</u></b>		
<b><u>Campbell Creek (both forks),</u></b>		
<b><u>Rainbow Creek, Rabbit Creek</u></b>		

**1 ram with full curl horn or larger by drawing, up to 6 tags may be issued, hunters may not take a ram within 1/2 mile of a maintained road.**

**ISSUE:** These areas are near urban Anchorage and are bounded by currently open Dall sheep hunting areas. The adjoining area, DS123 was established several years ago to provide a very limited opportunity to harvest trophy Dall Sheep in previously closed areas of Chugach State Park. Currently only one tag is given annually. Although this hunt was opposed by some that prefer sheep are not hunted in the Park, there have been no conflicts to date.

Some of these areas are very near highly used areas and the Seward Highway. I chose the Day after Labor Day as the opener to minimize conflicts with other park users and to correspond with other seasons that are in very highly used areas of Chugach Park. I have also chose to include a 1/2 mile closed area from maintained roads mainly to eliminate hunting rams that are hanging out near the Seward Highway. Although animals are often taken very near highways in Alaska, this is an extremely dangerous stretch of road. A sheep hunter taking a ram from near the road could cause major traffic hazards.

The hunt should start with only one tag issued for the entire area and possibly increase if no problems arise, similar to DS123.

Sheep drawing tags are some of the most popular in Alaska and we should take every opportunity to expand opportunity, especially in areas near population centers such as Chugach State Park.

This is also one of the only areas on earth where a person with physical disabilities may have a reasonable chance to take a Dall ram. These areas are close enough to improved roads and trails that even someone that is wheelchair bound could participate in a hunt with a couple of motivated porters or assistants. The board may consider making this hunt available to those “permanently wheelchair bound or similarly disabled,” the same definition as the brown bear bait exemption.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The rams in this area will continue to die of old age and even occasionally be hit by cars.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, presently there is no harvest.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Sheep hunters. Those willing to make the effort to access this area after being lucky enough to draw the longest odds tag in Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** An alternative would be to split up this area and issue one tags for each section. An archery only hunt could be considered in the more highly used areas around McHugh Creek. Consider a hunt for those with disabilities only.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist EG050712685

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**PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Re-open the “Ram Valley area of the Eagle River Drainage for the DS123 sheep drawing tag as follows.

<b>Units and bag limits</b>	<b>Resident Open season</b>	<b>Nonresident Open season</b>
<b><u>14 (C) Ram Valley</u> <u>1 ram with full curl</u> <u>horn or larger by</u> <u>DS123 drawing</u></b>	<b><u>Aug 10-Sept 30</u></b>	<b><u>Aug 10-Sept 30</u></b>

...

**ISSUE:** DS123 was established several years ago to provide a very limited opportunity to harvest trophy Dall Sheep in previously closed areas of Chugach State Park. Currently only one tag is given annually. Although this hunt was opposed by some that prefer sheep are not hunted in the Park, there have been no conflicts to date.

It recently came to my attention that the overzealous Anchorage area biologist had closed a portion of this hunt area “Ram Valley.” My wife was lucky enough to draw this tag and I was disturbed to find that this area was closed without Board of Game approval.

This closure had nothing to do with this hunt but was justified because a ewe hunter had strayed into the area and illegally killed an ewe sheep. This seems to have caused the private landowner that owned the main access route from Eagle River Valley to deny access to the public. This is not the only access route. The illegal hunter accessed (according to the Anchorage area biologist) from Peters Creek over the top so it would stand to reason that others could do the same.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The area will remain closed because it is not likely for the area biologist to change her mind.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, presently there is no harvest.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Sheep hunters. Those willing to make the effort to access this area after being lucky enough to draw the longest odds tag in Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Persuade the area biologist to re-open this area. This has been tried and failed.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist

EG050712621

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**PROPOSAL 162 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open resident sheep seasons seven days before nonresident seasons for the Southcentral Region Units as follows.

Resident hunting season for Dall sheep shall be August 3rd to September 20th. Nonresident hunting season shall be from August 10th to September 20th. Drawing permit areas will start seven days earlier for Alaska residents and if there is a split season, the second half will be shortened by seven days for nonresidents such that residents can start the second half seven days prior to nonresidents.

**ISSUE:** The Board of Game needs to address the lack of full curl legal rams available to Alaska residents. While sheep populations have been stable to slightly declining, the availability of legal rams, much less trophy rams, has been significantly reduced and is in serious decline. Success rates for resident sheep hunters will never be on par with non-residents if not allowed an earlier jump from the efficiency of their guides.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaskan resident hunters will continue to suffer from the mismanagement of this species by the Board of Game. Alaskan youth will never have the opportunity afforded to their parents and grandparents to successfully hunt healthy populations of Dall sheep with ample populations of large rams. Alaska wildlife belongs to all Alaskans and these resources should be managed as such.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Resident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt and avoid conflicts with guides and their clients. Nonresident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt by avoiding conflicts with resident hunters. Transport services associated with sheep hunting will improve as this will lessen the bottleneck on transporters seen at the beginning of each season, especially during poor weather. This may also increase the safety of hunters and transporters by spreading out the season and users more. Current Alaska residents and future Alaskans may be more interested in hunting Dall sheep, its management, and the future of Dall sheep hunting if they had greater opportunity to locate and harvest a legal ram, much less quality rams.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska residents, Alaska youth, and future Alaskans. Dall sheep populations may also improve as more people may feel like they have a chance at successfully harvesting a quality ram and will be more interested in the management of the resource. This benefits Alaska, all of Alaska's game resources, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, though some will say nonresident hunters, nonresident guides, and resident guides may suffer. Harvest records, however, show that resident sheep hunters are much less successful than nonresidents because of their guides. This is largely due to time guides can give to pre-season scouting, which is done mostly by fixed wing aircraft. While success rates for resident hunters will hopefully increase, there is little reason to think that nonresident success rates will decline significantly. Pre-season scouting will still be available to guides. Sheep populations will not suffer directly - again because resident hunter success rates are consistently low. Future sheep populations, however, may suffer and receive little support or interest, if today's youth and future generations cannot hunt healthy populations of sheep, as is currently the case. You will be hard pressed to find any Alaska resident who is not a guide or associated with a guiding business, who does not favor this proposal. If not



sure whether to favor Alaska residents over nonresidents, please look at any other state and how they manage their resources for the benefit of their residents and not for the financial benefit of a few.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Close nonresident hunting of Dall sheep for five years or until healthy populations of sheep with sufficient populations of legal rams is re-established. Charge resident hunters nonresident harvest fees during this interim to offset any loss of funding from loss of non-resident tags. This would be the best management practice the Board of Game could do, as it would best serve current and future Alaska residents, and most of all best serve the Dall sheep population as a whole. I rejected this solution based on past performance of the board where political and financial interests of a few, trumped the best interests of Alaska residents, Alaska game resources, and Alaska itself.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jake Sprankle

EG042412551

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**PROPOSAL 163 - 5AAC 85.055. Seasons and bag limits for Dall Sheep.** Open resident sheep seasons seven days earlier than nonresident seasons for the Southcentral Region Units as follows:

Region II Units - Season Dates for Dall Sheep:

Resident: August 5 – September 20

Nonresident: August 12 – September 20

**ISSUE:** Preference For Alaska Residents - EARLY START DATE

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaskans will keep experiencing conflict in the field with commercial operators (guides) and overcrowding will diminish the quality of the hunt for residents. All of the western states have high allocations of game (usually 90%) for their residents and about 50% of Alaska’s sheep are harvested by nonresidents, which would never be allowed in other states. The lack of a quality experience and the diminishing number of legal rams is causing a reduction in the number of Alaskans wanting to hunt and enjoy a resource we all own.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** More legal rams would be harvested by residents and our youth would have an opportunity to have a positive experience sheep hunting. All sheep hunters would not be trying to enter the field on the same day and the air taxi services wouldn’t be so overloaded – generally a safer situation for all hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Alaskans – especially our youth. Nonresidents will also have a better experience because many residents will be out of the field when they enter creating more solitude for their hunt.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Commercial operators will complain but they are using a resource we all own. Other states don’t force nonresidents to use a guide and they have high game allocations for their residents (usually 90%). Nonresident guides can’t legally hunt sheep, goats, and brown bears themselves but they enjoy and make money on a resource owned by all Alaskans. This is not anti-guide or nonresident but pro-Alaskan.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The Board of Game has been very kind to the guiding industry at the expense of the resident hunter. Nonresident tag fees bring a lot of money to the state and this helps support the Department of Fish and Game. How do other western states survive giving their residents high allocations of game? Other western states require nonresidents to apply for drawing permits (elk, deer, antelope, bear, sheep, goat, moose, cougar, etc.) 6 to 8 months in advance of the season, they have a preference point system, and high tag fees with no guide requirements. They make money to support their programs and give their residents very (usually 90%) high allocations of game. Nonresidents can come to Alaska the day before hunting season and buy a nonresident tag over the counter the day before the season at a fraction of the price other states charge. Why doesn’t Alaska manage game for residents and our Department of Fish & Game like other states? If the board doesn’t start showing some preference to residents, Alaskans need to contact the governor and their representatives asking them to confirm board members who put residents as priority #1 or vote for politicians that support a preference for Alaska residents.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Lamal and Darcy Etcheverry

EG043012577

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**PROPOSAL 164 - 5 AAC 85.055. Seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open resident sheep hunting seasons five days before nonresidents for Southcentral Region Units as follows:

Region II Units - Season Dates for Dall Sheep:  
Residents: August 5th to September 20th  
Nonresidents: August 10th to September 20th

**ISSUE:** The Board of Game needs to address the serious problem of overcrowding at the start of sheep season and the lack of legal rams for the resident hunter. Alaska wildlife is 1st and foremost for the Alaskan resident.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The conflicts between resident and nonresident hunters will continue to increase and the overall successful hunting experience for both use groups will decline.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Both the resident and the nonresident hunters will have an improved hunt by avoiding conflicts between the two groups. This will also improve safety by not having everyone rush into the field in the same time.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Alaskan residents

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** In my opinion one would suffer, but the nonresident and resident guides will say that they will suffer.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** NA

**PROPOSED BY:** Leonard Jewkes

EG042912575

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**PROPOSAL 165 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Hunting seasons and bag limits.** Open resident hunting seasons seven to ten days before nonresident seasons for Southcentral Region Units as follows:

Resident hunting seasons begin 7-10 days before nonresident seasons.

**ISSUE:** Inequitable hunting opportunities for Alaskan residents. Most hunting states provide an early and/or extended hunting season for resident hunters. Alaska does not. We need to keep our residents fed and active in the management of our game, not depend nor allow the high dollar hunters from outside who support every small portion of our economy through the use of guide services. The local hunters are the folks who live here year around and keep the dollars local. We need to focus our game management on Alaskans.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaskan hunters will become disenchanting and revolt.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No, just the quality of the hunt

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaskans.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** There really isn't any other solution, except to ban nonresident hunters completely, and that's probably not going to fly

**PROPOSED BY:** Shaune O'Neil

EG042712556

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**PROPOSAL 166 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits.** Open resident hunting seasons seven days before nonresidents seasons for Southcentral Region Units as follows:

Whatever opening date is determined for any species the new regulation would indicate the opening for nonresidents would be seven days later.

**ISSUE:** Big game hunting seasons open seven days before nonresidents for all species of big game.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** This will allow resident hunters to have access to game populations without interference from nonresidents who may be utilizing professional guide services or hunting on their own. Opening day numbers would be thinned out, hunter transporters will be able to cater to more people, or at least spread the movement of people over more days and primarily allow residents a less chaotic hunt.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal would improve the quality of the hunting experience for the Alaskan resident. Our State Constitution indicates the wildlife resources belong to the people of Alaska. It should only be considered as fair for the people to have access to our wildlife resource without interference from nonresidents. Other states use staggered starts with nonresidents and the difference should be the same in Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone will benefit from this proposal. Residents will have the opportunity to access game in a less crowded field. Nonresidents would have the same type of experience. With opening day being thinned out the remainder of all hunting seasons would be much smoother.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** I can't see any group suffering from this proposal. Hunting pressure would be thinned, commercial services would be spread out and Alaska would be in line with many of the other hunting states.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No other solutions considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Terry Marquette

EG042812565

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*Note: The Board of Game does not have the authority remove guide requirements for hunting certain species nor to increase tag and permit fees.*

**PROPOSAL 167 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Season and bag limits.** Open resident hunting seasons ten days before nonresident seasons; allocate 90 percent harvest to residents; remove guide requirements, and increase tag and permit fees for the Southcentral Region as follows:

Start ALL resident hunting seasons for ALL species 10 days prior to nonresident hunters. Remove the guiding requirement for sheep, goats, and brown bears. Raise ALL nonresident harvest tags and permit fees. Allocate 90% of harvests to residents and 10% to nonresidents.

**ISSUE:** I would like the Board of Game to address the problem of favoring guides and their nonresident clients over the needs of Alaskan residents. Specifically, I would like the Board of Game to address the declining hunting opportunities residents are facing and the competition we face from the guiding industry in filling our freezers.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Residents will continue to see their hunting opportunities. The Board of Game and the guiding industry will continue to claim that nonresident hunters provide monies for the management of our game and bring in much needed dollars to the State when in fact they don't. Residents live here, spend their money YEAR round, buy services and goods YEAR round and support a multitude of businesses in their pursuit of game. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game spends about \$42 million dollars per year in support of the commercial fishing industry, yet only receives about \$16 million in revenue from the commercial fishing

industry. Clearly, if the Department of Fish and Game--and the Board of Game --were concerned about much needed dollars, we can find savings in other avenues.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** We live here and these are OUR resources. Not the Feds, not nonresidents, and surely not the guides. The Board of Game needs to start to manage our wildlife for Alaskan residents and we have seen for too long now, declining populations of our game and most especially, declining hunting opportunities for us and our children. The future does not look bright if we continue--if you, the Board of Game, continue, to manage our wildlife species the way you have. We have an excellent Department of Fish and Game--some of the best and brightest biologists in the world--yet your actions, and in many cases, lack of action--has made them ineffective as managers.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaskan Residents--and that's all that really matters. That and our game resources. This should be the metric for each and every decision you make. Does it help the Alaskan resident--current and future? Your last meeting on the Interior failed in this regard on several fronts.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Hunting Guides and the Guiding Industry and that is fine with the vast majority of ALASKANS.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Continue on the same management path as you have--and that is unacceptable. It is time to put Alaskans first. It is time to think of future Alaskans--specifically, our children. These are our game resources--we expect you to manage them for our benefit and for our children's benefit. The Board of Game--current and past-- has failed to do this, and I reject this as being acceptable.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jake Sprinkle EG043012586  
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**PROPOSAL 168 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits** Limit drawing permits to ten percent for nonresidents in Southcentral Region Units as follows:

Nonresidents will only be granted 10% of the hunting permits offered for any big game hunting permit drawing.

**ISSUE:** In Region II (Southcentral Region) nonresidents will be limited to receiving no more than 10% of the permits issued for any hunt drawing.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The wildlife resources of Alaska belong to the residents of Alaska first and foremost. It is only fair that the bulk of hunting draw permits go to Alaskan residents first and a smaller portion be extended to nonresidents. Extending ten percent of any hunting draw coincides with the percentage extended by other states for hunting permit draws. Without this nonresident limitation, Alaskans who desire to use this resource pay the application fees (which are non-refundable) and consequently get bumped by a nonresident are being denied access to their own resource.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This proposal secures the Alaskan resident as having first priority status for acquiring big game permits through the drawing process.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The Alaskan resident will benefit from this proposal.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one will suffer.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** No others considered.

**PROPOSED BY:** Terry Marquette EG042812564  
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**PROPOSAL 169 - 5 AAC Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits.** Allocate 90% of drawing permits to residents for Southcentral Region hunts and exclude nonresidents in hunts with less than ten permits as follows:

A minimum of 90% of drawing permits will go to Alaska residents for all species. If a certain Unit has less than 10 permits available nonresidents are not eligible to participate in that drawing.

**ISSUE:** Drawing permit preference for Alaska residents – All species.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaska needs to put a cap of 10% on nonresident participation in drawing permits. This will put us in line with the other western states that have preferences for their residents which is usually 90% for drawing permits.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** An Alaskan preference for drawing permits will improve the quality of the hunt for resident hunters and give more opportunities to our youth. This will take away a lot of the conflict with sheep, goats, and brown bear where nonresidents are forced to hire a guide.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Alaskans.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The commercial operators (guides) will complain on sheep, goats, and brown bears but the other western states don't force nonresidents to use a guide for any species. The guides don't support preference points for residents or a high allocation of permits going to resident hunters. The commercial operators are using a resource we all own and residents would like the Board of Game to adopt proposals that reduce conflict in the field between guides and resident hunters.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** The Board of Game has been very kind to the guiding industry at the expense of the resident hunter. Nonresident tag fees bring a lot of money to the state and this helps support the Department of Fish and Game. How do other western states survive giving their residents high allocations of game? Other western states require nonresidents to apply for drawing permits (elk, deer, antelope, bear, sheep, goat, moose, cougar, etc.) six to eight months in advance of the season, they have a preference point system, and high tag fees with no guide requirements. They make money to support their programs and give their residents very (usually 90%) high allocations of game. Nonresidents can come to Alaska the day before hunting season and buy a nonresident tag over the counter the day before the season at a fraction of the price other states charge. Why doesn't Alaska manage game for residents and our Department of Fish and Game like other states? If the Board of Game doesn't start showing some preference to residents, Alaskans need to contact the governor and their representatives asking them to confirm board members who put residents as priority #1 or vote for politicians that support a preference for Alaska residents.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tom Lamal

EG043012581

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**PROPOSAL 170 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts.** Limit Dall sheep drawing permits to ten percent for nonresidents for the Southcentral Region as follows:

Drawing by permit only with 90% of the permits going to residents and 10% of the permits for nonresidents. The total number of permits for any one given area will not exceed harvest of 40% of the legal rams in the hunting area.

**ISSUE:** I would like the board's full consideration to consider moving ALL Dall sheep hunting in Region II to drawing permit only, limiting the number of nonresident permits to 10% or less of the total permits allowed for any specific area. The 10% allocation of this state owned resource to nonresidents should be more than adequate and provide a preference for the residents of the state that own the resource.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Several of the problems already exist and are getting worse. The state is not managing the resource to the fullest potential both monetarily and for trophy quality or age structure to promote better hunting and more funding available to manage. Many areas saturated with guides and nonresident

hunters are becoming more and more exclusive for guides to lock down access by threat and air taxis flying in the area trying to keep hunting areas they think they own private. Area conflicts are increasing with hunters and guided nonresident hunters.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, both the resource harvest will improve age structure and quality of the trophies hunted and limit hunter conflicts. Increased management dollars to promote a healthier number of sheep and better understanding of actual sheep numbers by regular census taking.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All hunter in general will benefit with less user conflicts and improved trophy quality and opportunities. Providing a quoted for both residents and nonresidents should allow for plenty of opportunity.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Better planning for all users to apply for a permit would not be considered suffering, just making an adjustment. Guides may feel they are suffering with a limited client base, because now they can do most anything they want.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Limit the amount of nonresident sheep hunters to a simple ten % permit quota of the resource take in each area based on the last ten year harvest average to drawing permit and leaving all current harvest tag only areas still open to residents. I feel the drawing permit system needs more participation to generate additional revenue for the state to improve state wide sheep management.

**PROPOSED BY:** Doug Lammers EG042912570  
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**PROPOSAL 171 - 5 AAC 92.052. Discretionary permit hunt conditions and procedures. Statewide provisions.**  
Develop a permit allocation formula for second degree of kindred hunters in Units 14C and 15 as follows:

We suggest that nonresident drawing permit hunt success be established on a 75 and up to 25% basis with the up to 25% provided to second degree of kindred hunters for Units 14 and 15.

**ISSUE:** Second degree of kindred allocation within drawing permit hunts. In many cases where nonresident hunter opportunity has been limited to drawing permit hunts and guide required species, there are very few permits available. Professional hunting guides have to maintain their business overhead and land use authorizations based on the hope that they will have clients who draw a permit. Second degree of kindred drawing permit success is growing. This factor works against a guide business owner whose clients also compete for these permits. We would like the Board of Game to develop an allocation formula that provides for second degree of kindred opportunity but also allows for a guide business owner to have knowledge that there are permits available for guided hunting opportunity.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Second degree of kindred drawing permit success will continue to marginalize or eliminate guide business owners and their contribution to the State of Alaska.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, guided hunting provided a very important part of the rural Alaska economy. Second degree of kindred hunters have a much higher level of no-show which leaves opportunity wasted for other hunters.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Professional guide business owners who need some assurance that they will have a chance for their clients to draw permits.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Some second degree of kindred hunters.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Status quo: does not provide for a viable business plan.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Professional Hunters Association Inc. EG050412640  
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**PROPOSAL 78 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open**

resident sheep seasons seven days earlier than nonresident seasons.

Sheep season dates:

Residents: August 5th - September 20th

Nonresidents: August 12th - September 20th

**ISSUE:** Season dates for Dall sheep. Change the traditional dates from August 10 - September 20 to August 5 - September 20 for residents, and August 12 - September 20 for nonresidents.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The conflict between resident hunters and nonresident hunters and their guides; public lands are a resource for all Alaskans. Alaskans should come first.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** This should eliminate the bottleneck of sheep hunters all trying to get in the field at the same time. A lot of the resident hunters will be leaving the field when the nonresident hunters are going out.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Resident Alaskan sheep hunters and hopefully some young Alaskans.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Guides will complain but it will only be for a short time once this gets worked out there won't be a big rush to get in at the same time.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Wayne Valcq

**LOG NUMBER:** EG052011503

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**PROPOSAL 79 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Open**

resident sheep seasons seven days earlier than nonresident seasons.

Sheep season dates:

Residents - August 5 - September 20

Nonresidents - August 12 - September 20

Draw permit areas will start seven days earlier for residents; if there is a split season the second half will be shortened by seven days for nomesidents.

**ISSUE:** Would like to see more trophy Dall sheep for residents. Residents need a jump on the nomesidents.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaskan youth will never have a chance like their parents or grandparents to successfully hunt healthy population of Dall Sheep with large trophy rams. We need to get our young people out and have a quality hunt.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Residents will have a quality hunt. Nomesident hunters will have quality hunt also. There will be less conflicts between the two. Also we can get our young people a quality hunt.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaskan residents and Alaskan youth Dall sheep population should improve also.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one. Guides might think they are, but will work out better for then later on; there will be better quality hunts.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED: PROPOSED BY:** Wayne Valcq

**LOG NUMBER:** EG050411448

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**PROPOSAL 80 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change the nomesident season and amount of permits available.**

Sheep season dates:

Residents: August 5th\_ September 20th

Nomesidents: August 12th-Sept 20th

Nomesident sheep hunters have to draw for a permit and area they want to hunt.

**ISSUE:** Nomesident sheep hunters could have to draw for a permit and an area. There should

also be a cap on the permits.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTIDNG IS DONE?** Too many sub legal sheep taken by nomresident hunters. Many rams never reach their full potential.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** With less hunting pressure the rams will be allowed to reach their full potential.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone will benefit. There will be less crowding with residents hunting first and nomresidents later and with less nomresidents there will be bigger rams.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Guides who do not care about Alaska's resources.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Wayne Valcq

**LOG NUMBER:** EG052011504

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**PROPOSAL 81 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open resident seasons one week before nonresident seasons for Dall sheep hunting.

The Alaska state residents have seven days to hunt before the nonresidents come in.

Residents: August 5 - September 20

Nonresidents: August 12 - September 20

**ISSUE:** Modify the season dates for Dall sheep. Original dates: August 10 - September 20.

New resident dates: August 6 - September 20; new nonresident dates: August 12th - September 20th.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If this problem is not solved the conflict between nonresidents and residents will continue. Nonresidents kill about 70 percent of the kills and residents kill about 30 percent.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** The quality of the hunt will be better and the Alaska rain will be more of a trophy for the Alaska residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The Alaska state residents will benefit from this solution.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The out of state/nonresidents will suffer. They will complain but it's our state.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Ethan Graham

**LOG NUMBER:** EG050411444

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**PROPOSAL 82 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting Seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Begin the hunting season for Dall sheep seven days earlier than nonresidents.

Resident hunting season for Dall sheep shall be August 3rd to September 20th. Nonresident hunting season shall be from August 10th to September 20th. Drawing permit areas will start 7 days earlier for Alaska residents and if there is a split season, the second half will be shortened by 7 days for non-residents such that residents can start the second half 7 days prior to nomresidents.

**ISSUE:** The Board of Game needs to address the declining number of full curl legal rams available to Alaska residents. While sheep populations have been stable to slightly declining, the availability of legal rams, much less trophy rams, has been significantly reduced and is in serious decline. Success rates for resident sheep hunters will never be on par with non-residents if not allowed an earlier jump from the efficiency of their gnides. To offset the advantage non-residents have due to the efficiency of guides, resident hunters should have an earlier opening.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaska resident hunters will continue to suffer from the mismanagement of this species. Alaskan youth will never have the opportunity afforded to their parents and grandparents to successfully hunt healthy populations of Dall sheep with ample populations of large rams. Alaska wildlife belongs to all Alaskans and these resources should be managed as such.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS**



**PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Resident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt and avoid conflicts with guides and their clients. Nonresident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt by avoiding conflicts with resident hunters. Transport services associated with sheep hunting will improve as this will lessen the bottleneck on transporters seen at the beginning of each season, especially during poor weather. This may also increase the safety of hunters and transporters by spreading out the season and users more. Current Alaska residents and future Alaskans may be more interested in hunting Dall sheep, its management, and the future of Dall sheep hunting if they had greater opportunity to locate and harvest a legal ram, much less quality rams.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska residents, Alaska youth, and future Alaskans. Dall sheep populations may also improve as more people may feel like they have a chance at successfully harvesting a quality ram and will be more interested in the management of the resource. This benefits Alaska, all of Alaska's game resources, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, though some will say non-resident hunters, nonresident guides, and resident guides may suffer. Harvest records, however, show that resident sheep hunters are much less successful than non-residents because of their guides. This is largely due to time guides can give to pre-season scouting, which is done mostly by fixed wing aircraft. While success rates for resident hunters will hopefully increase, there is little reason to think that non-resident success rates will decline significantly. Pre-season scouting will still be available to guides. Sheep populations will not suffer directly-again because resident hunter success rates are consistently low. Future sheep populations, however, may suffer and receive little support or interest, if today's youth and future generations cannot hunt healthy populations of sheep, as is currently the case. You will be hard pressed to find any Alaska resident-who is not a guide or associated with a guiding business-who does not favor this proposal. If not sure whether to favor Alaska residents over non-residents, please look at any other state and how they manage their resources for the benefit of their residents and not for the financial benefit of a few.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Close nonresident hunting of Dall sheep for five years or until healthy populations of sheep with sufficient populations of legal rams is reestablished. Charge resident hunters non-resident harvest fees during this interim to offset any loss of funding from loss of non-resident tags. This would be the best management practice the board could do, as it would best serve current and future Alaska residents, and most of all, best serve the Dall sheep population as a whole. This solution was rejected based on past performance of the board where political and financial interests of a few, trumped the best interests of Alaska residents, Alaska game resources, and Alaska itself. Push the legislators to drop the requirement for non-residents to be guided for sheep. This solution was rejected based the political and financial interests of a few always seem to trump the best interests of Alaska residents, Alaska game resources, and Alaska itself.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jake Sprankle and James Von Holle

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042711336

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**PROPOSAL 83 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Begin the resident sheep seasons ten days earlier than nonresident seasons.

Have the sheep season start date earlier for resident hunters.

Sheep season for resident hunters would be August 1-September 20.

Sheep season for nonresident hunters would be August 10 -September 20.

\*In drawing permit areas the same dates should apply but nonresidents would only be able to participate in the first half

**ISSUE:** Conflict between resident and guides in the field while hunting sheep.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The conflict will get worse, result in less opportunity for residents and discourage youth from pursuing sheep hunting.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS**

**PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** My proposal will improve the quality of hunt for residents. It will provide a time for residents to hunt without worry about guide conflict. and maintain the

whole season for residents who prefer to hunt later. it will also improve the quality of hunt for nonresidents (since most residents will take advantage of the earlier start date they should be out of the field before nonresidents start hunting).

This proposal with a longer resident season should not affect sheep population since the harvest is only full curl rams. I would encourage the review of regulations for other Western States; all of them give preference to their residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Alaskans.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one. Guides (many of whom are nonresidents) will complain but they are profiting from a public resource that belongs to all Alaskans.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** I considered proposing a split season for residents but rejected it since it was too complicated. I also considered proposing that all nonresidents be put on permits with a cap (such as 10 percent of total sheep hunters) with no guide required but rejected it because that would be legislative issue.

**PROPOSED BY:** Sharon Swisher

**LOG NUMBER:** EG04 28113 34

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**PROPOSAL 84 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Open resident sheep seasons five days earlier than nonresident seasons.

Residents: August 5th to September 20th

Nonresidents: August 10th to September 20th

**ISSUE:** The Board of Game needs to address the serious problem of overcrowding at the start of the sheep season and the lack of legal rams for the resident hunters. Alaska wildlife is 1st and foremost for the Alaskan resident.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The conflicts between resident and nonresident hunters will continue to increase and the overall successful hunting experience for both user groups will decline.

**"TILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Both the resident and the nonresident hunters will have an improved hunt by avoiding conflicts between the two groups. This will also improve safety by not having everyone rush into the field at the same time.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All Alaskan residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** In my opinion no one would suffer, but the non-resident and resident guides will say that they will suffer.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Leonard Jewkes

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042811369

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**PROPOSAL 85 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Begin resident Dall sheep seasons five days earlier.

In all sheep hunting seasons, the resident hunting season will begin five days earlier.

**ISSUE:** Sheep seasons should start earlier for residents then for nomesidents.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** A limited resource will be given away to non-residents who have no claim to Alaskan resources.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, it will provide advantage to the residents of Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nomesidents.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Heuer

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042811349

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**PROPOSAL 86 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Dall sheep.** Begin the youth hunting season for Dall sheep five days earlier than residents.

Alaska resident youth hunting season for Dall sheep shall commence five days prior to the resident season, regardless of whether it is general, registration or draw permit. Alaska resident children are defined as any child 17 years of age or younger and who has lived in Alaska prior to January 1 of the year they will be hunting.

**ISSUE:** The Board of Game needs to address the lack of full curl legal rams available to Alaska residents as well as the future of hunting in Alaska as a whole. While sheep populations have been stable to slightly declining, the availability of legal rams, much less trophy rams, has been significantly reduced and is in serious decline. Success rates for resident sheep hunters will never be on par with non-residents if not allowed an earlier jump from the efficiency of their guides. Fewer and fewer youth are hunting and this is largely due to the degradation of game resources and lack of quality hunting opportunities for children 17 years of age and younger.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaskan youth will never have the opportunity afforded to their parents and grandparents to successfully hunt healthy populations of Dall sheep with ample populations of large rams. Alaskan resident hunters will decline and so will the support for good biological management of our game resources.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Resident youth hunters will have an improved quality of hunt experience which would increase their interest in the future of hunting, the future of game management in Alaska, and the future health of Dall sheep populations and its management. A five day jump would help them avoid conflicts with guides and their clients, and avoid competition from them as well as resident hunters. Transport services associated with sheep hunting will improve as this will lessen the bottleneck on transporters seen at the beginning of each season. This may also increase the safety of hunters and transporters by spreading out the season and users more.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska resident youth, and future Alaskans. Dall sheep populations may also improve as more youth would be interested in sheep management and game management as a whole. This benefits Alaska, all of Alaska's game resources, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as well.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, though some will say non-resident hunters, nonresident guides, and resident guides may suffer. Harvest records, however, show that resident sheep hunters are much less successful than non-residents because of their guides. I imagine harvest records by children 17 years and younger is much, much less as well. Non-resident success rates are higher largely due to amount of time their guides can give to pre-season scouting, which is done mostly by fixed wing aircraft. While success rates for resident youth hunters will hopefully increase, there is little reason to think that non-resident success rates will decline significantly. Pre-season scouting will still be available to guides. Sheep populations will not suffer directly, again because resident hunter success rates are consistently low. Future sheep populations, however, may suffer and receive little support or interest, if today's youth and future generations cannot hunt healthy populations of sheep as is currently the case.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Close nonresident hunting of Dall sheep for five years or until healthy populations of sheep with sufficient populations of legal rams is reestablished. Charge resident hunters non-resident harvest fees during this interim to offset any loss of funding from loss of non-resident tags. This would be the best management practice the BOG could do, as it would best serve current and future Alaska residents, and most of all best serve the Dall sheep population as a whole. I rejected this solution based on past performance of the board where political and financial interests of a few, trumped the best interests of Alaska residents, Alaska game resources, and Alaska itself.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jake Sprinkle

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042711330

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**PROPOSAL 87 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Dall Sheep.** Convert all nonresident sheep seasons to drawing permit hunts and limit to five percent of total permits. All nonresident sheep tags will be issued on a permit drawing basis. The number of drawing permits and areas will be drawn up by the ADF&G. Nonresident participation in sheep hunts cannot exceed 5 percent of the total number of sheep tags issued in Alaska (resident &

nonresident).

**ISSUE:** Management of Dall sheep; too many of our sheep are being harvested by nonresidents being guided many times by nonresident guides. My cousin from Cincinnati booked a hunt with an out-of-state guide at the SCI convention. They flew him in to the Brooks Range, the next day they shot the 1st legal ram they saw from over 300 yards and had him out in less than 72 hours.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaska resident hunters will continue to suffer from the mismanagement of this species. Alaskan youth will never have the opportunity afforded to their parents and grandparents to successfully hunt healthy populations of Dall sheep with ample populations of large rams. Alaska wildlife belongs to all Alaskans and these resources should be managed as such.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS**

**PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Current Alaska residents and future Alaskans may be more interested in hunting Dall sheep, its management, and the future of Dall sheep hunting if they had greater opportunity to locate and harvest a legal ram, much less quality rams.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska residents, Alaska youth, and future Alaskans. Dall sheep populations may also improve as more people may feel like they have a chance at successfully harvesting a quality ram and will be more interested in the management of the resource. This benefits Alaska, all of Alaska's game resources, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonresident hunters, non-resident guides, and resident guides may suffer. Harvest records, however, show that resident sheep hunters are much less successful than non-residents because of their guides. While success rates for resident hunters will hopefully increase, there is little reason to think that non-resident success rates will decline significantly. Sheep populations will not suffer directly, again because resident hunter success rates are consistently low. Future sheep populations, however, may suffer and receive little support or interest, if today's youth and future generations cannot hunt healthy populations of sheep, as is currently the case.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Contact my legislators to push for dropping the requirement for non-residents to be guided. I rejected this solution since it appears the political and financial interests of a few, trump the best interests of Alaska residents, Alaska game resources, and Alaska itself

**PROPOSED BY:** James Von Holle

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042811335

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**PROPOSAL 88 - 5 AAC, Chapter 85. Seasons and bag limits.** Convert all nonresident sheep seasons to drawing permits and limit to 10 percent of total permits.

The new regulation would state that all nonresident sheep tags would go to a draw-only permit system. The total number of nonresident tags would be allotted geographically so as the total will not exceed 10 percent of the total number of hunters in the region, similar to other states' systems. To establish a number of nonresident tags, the board should use geographical data and previous harvest data as the numbers are fairly consistent from year to year.

**ISSUE:** The state shows little or no priority for resident sheep hunters in general harvest areas. The disproportionately high harvest rate for nonresidents (39.5 percent of total sheep taken from 2000-2009) in these areas is causing competition between guides, other guides, and residents. This is making finding legal sheep harder and detracting from everyone's experience due to aggressiveness from competing parties.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If this problem is not solved, hunt quality will continue to plummet and all sheep hunting will likely go to draw only, as has already occurred in the Chugach Range, and Alaska residents will unnecessarily lose their open harvest privileges.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS**

**PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, this reduced harvest would relieve pressure on hardguided areas and improve trophy quality by allowing more rams to reach their full potential for growth.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaskan resident hunters, but also nonresidents hoping for

a better quality sheep hunt, and it will give guides more sheep to choose from and less competition

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Short term, guides will have fewer clients. As the market adjusts to reduced availability of non-resident hunts, the value of a guided hunt will increase.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Raise nonresident guide license price to !OX that of resident guides, this might not be under the Boards authority and it would be more effective to use the proposed changes.

**PROPOSED BY:** Tyler Freel

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042811346

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**PROPOSAL 89 - 5 AAC 85.055 . Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Dall sheep.** Convert all sheep hunts to drawing only, 90% for residents.

Hunting by drawing permit only. Residents are allotted 90 percent of the available permits. The state takes an active role managing our resource to provide trophy quality age structure and healthy ram population.

**ISSUE:** All nonresident and resident sheep tags will be issued by drawing permit basis only. The number of drawing permits and areas will be drawn up by ADF&G. Nonresident participation/permits will not exceed 10 percent of the total number of permits for any given area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** The problem has already started. Competition between user groups is becoming more problematic creating additional conflicts and lessening the overall experience of the hunt. Unlimited mismanagement of a valuable renewable resource. Lost revenue to manage the resource responsibly by the state. Non-resident advantage in resource allotment, verses all other states that manage sheep harvest responsibly for the residents that own the resource.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes-improved the amount of legal rams available per hunter in the field. Improved age structure and trophy quality by reducing over harvest. increased revenue to manage the herd responsibly by ADF&G. Lessons crowding conflicts and improves hunting experience.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Both residents and nonresident hunting groups will find the overall hunting experience will inmediately improve, both with opportunities and less user conflicts. The biggest benefactor will be all residents of the state that expect ADF&G to manage this valuable resource responsibly.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Both residents and nonresident will need improved planning to participate in the drawing hunt process. Guides may have fewer clients to guide, but the hunt experience will improve. All user groups will ultimately have minimal suffering.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Statewide drawing permits only to hunt sheep. We should really consider in the long term going statewide. By changing Region III to drawing permit, this will allow some of the users to relocate or select a different hunt area if they were not successful drawing a permit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Doug Lammers

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042911399

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**PROPOSAL 90 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Allocate two percent of all sheep drawing permits to nonresidents, close nomesident season ifharvestable surplus is less than 50.

In all Dall Sheep drawing permits a two percent allocation will be provided to nonresident hunters. In areas with a harvestable surplus of less than 50, no nonresident allocation would be available.

**ISSUE:** For all drawing hunts for Dall sheep, provide a nonresident allocation of two percent of the harvestable surplus. The remaining 98 percent of the allocations will be for resident hunters. In areas with harvestable surplus less than 50, no nonresident allocation would be available.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTIDNG IS DONE?** A limited resource will be given away to nonresidents who have no claim to Alaskan resources.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, it will provide advantage to the residents of Alaska to harvest Dall sheep without non-resident competition.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaskan residents

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonresidents

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Heuer

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042811351

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**PROPOSAL 91 - 5 AAC 85.055 . Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Dall sheep.**

Nonresident next of kin sheep tags come out of the resident pool in Units where there are a limited number of nonresident sheep tags.

Nonresident next of kin sheep applicants would put in with the residents for allocated sheep tags. Plus there would be a cap on the number of next of kin that could draw that particular sheep hunt.

**ISSUE:** That nonresident next of kin sheep tags should come out of the resident pool in units where there is a limited number of nonresident sheep tags. (i.e.: Units 12, 13, & 14.)

In the last couple of years we have limited the percent of nonresident sheep tags in these areas with the 10 year average of nonresident guide use. Now we are having a large portion of the nonresident tags going to the next of kin making it very hard on the guides that work in these areas. It also does not come across very well to the guided non-resident that is thinking about applying in Alaska. Each nonresident that applies donates \$100 to the state just for a chance at drawing. I do not think we want to discourage the non-resident hunter in a way that he thinks he does not have a fair chance at getting a sheep tag. Most nonresident that apply in Alaska also apply in other states and accept that roughly 10 percent of the sheep tags go to guided hunters. I also think we need a cap on the number of next of kin non-residents that can draw out of the resident pool.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** With the Alaska population increasing we will see a large increase in the number on next of kin non-residents that are applying and drawing allocated sheep tags. This will make it harder and harder for guides to operate in these areas thus not being able to get as many non-resident guided hunters to apply. This will financially hurt the guide industry, local air taxis, local services, and the Department of Fish & Game. Nonresident guided hunters are spending a lot more money within the state than nonresident next of kin hunters.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** By having the small percent of allocated nonresident sheep tags go to guided hunters it brings more money into the state and more money for the Department of Fish and Game. Thus allowing more money that the Department of Fish and Game can dedicate to sheep research and habitat.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Guides would have a better chance at being able to operate in the draw areas and not have to go to non-draw areas and shoot the first legal ram they see. Guided nonresident hunters would have a better chance at drawing. It would also put the Alaska draw areas in a better light with the nonresident hunter encouraging them to continue to apply. Local services, Air Taxis, ADF&G, and guides all benefit when guided nonresident come to hunt Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The next of kin nonresident.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lance Kronberger

**LOG NUMBER:** EG041411301

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**PROPOSAL 136 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting Seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Begin the resident sheep season seven days earlier than nonresidents in Region III Units.

Resident hunting season for Dall sheep shall be August 3rd to September 20th. Nonresident hunting season shall be from August 10th to September 20th. Drawing permit areas will start 7 days earlier for Alaska residents and if there is a split season, the second half will be shortened by 7 days for nonresidents such that residents can start the second half 7 days prior to nonresidents.

**ISSUE:** The Board of Game needs to address the declining number of full curl legal rams available to Alaska residents. While sheep populations have been stable to slightly declining, the availability of legal rams, much less trophy rams, has been significantly reduced and is in serious decline. Success rates for resident sheep hunters will never be on par with non-residents if not allowed an earlier jump from the efficiency of their guides. To offset the advantage non-residents have due to the efficiency of guides, resident hunters should have an earlier opening.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaskan resident hunters will continue to suffer from the mismanagement of this species. Alaskan youth will never have the opportunity afforded to their parents and grandparents to successfully hunt healthy populations of Dall sheep with ample populations of large rams. Alaska wildlife belongs to all Alaskans and these resources should be managed as such.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS**

**PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Resident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt and avoid conflicts with guides and their clients. Nonresident hunters will have an improved quality of hunt by avoiding conflicts with resident hunters. Transport services associated with sheep hunting will improve as this will lessen the bottleneck on transporters seen at the beginning of each season, especially during poor weather. This may also increase the safety of hunters and transporters by spreading out the season and users more. Current Alaska residents and future Alaskans may be more interested in hunting Dall sheep, its management, and the future of Dall sheep hunting if they had greater opportunity to locate and harvest a legal ram, much less quality rams.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska residents, Alaska youth, and future Alaskans. Dall sheep populations may also improve as more people may feel like they have a chance at successfully harvesting a quality ram and will be more interested in the management of the resource. This benefits Alaska, all of Alaska's game resources, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one, though some will say nonresident hunters, non-resident guides, and resident guides may suffer. Harvest records, however, show that resident sheep hunters are much less successful than non-residents because of their guides. This is largely due to time guides can give to pre-season scouting, which is done mostly by fixed wing aircraft. While success rates for resident hunters will hopefully increase, there is little reason to think that nonresident success rates will decline significantly. Pre-season scouting will still be available to guides. Sheep populations will not suffer directly-again because resident hunter success rates are consistently low. Future sheep populations, however, may suffer and receive little support or interest, if today's youth and future generations cannot hunt healthy populations of sheep, as is currently the case. You will be hard pressed to find any Alaska resident-who is not a guide or associated with a guiding business-who does not favor this proposal. If not sure whether to favor Alaska residents over non-residents, please look at any other state and how they manage their resources for the benefit of their residents and not for the financial benefit of a few.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Close nonresident hunting of Dall sheep for five years or until healthy populations of sheep with sufficient populations of legal rams is re-established. Charge resident hunters non-resident harvest fees during this interim to offset any loss of funding from loss of non-resident tags. This would be the best management practice the board could do, as it would best serve current and future Alaska residents, and most of all best serve the Dall sheep population as a whole. This solution was rejected based on past performance of the Board of Game where political and financial interests of a few, trumped the best interests of Alaska residents, Alaska game resources, and Alaska itself. Push the legislators

to drop the requirement for nonresidents to be guided for sheep. This solution was rejected based the political and financial interests of a few always seem to trump the best interests of Alaska residents, Alaska game resources, and Alaska itself.

**PROPOSED BY:** Jake Sprinkle and James Von Holle

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042711328

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**PROPOSAL 137 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and**

**92.57. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts.** Convert nonresident sheep seasons to draw only hunts, require guide-client agreement and cap harvest at 15-20% of allowable harvest.

All nonresident sheep hunts in Region III where we have general open season (non-draw) hunts for nonresidents (excluding units within USF&WS and NPS lands) become draw only, require a signed guide-client agreement before or at time of permit application, and the number of permits is capped based on sheep density and population estimates conducted by ADF&G so that nonresident harvest does not exceed 15-20 percent of the year's estimated harvestable surplus. These stipulations would not apply to any nonresidents hunting with a 2nd degree of kindred.

It is also recommended that the Board of Game incorporate some kind of post-hunt adult ram threshold when determining how many permits to issue for each Guide Use Area so that we ensure we are leaving a certain percentage of adult rams in the population each year. ADF&G would also need discretionary authority to limit permits based on weather events and high winterkill numbers.

**ISSUE:** Dall sheep conservation, unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunities and unlimited guide numbers in parts of Region III. In many parts of Region III (excluding Units within USF&WS and NPS lands) where we have open general season sheep hunts, there are no limits on the number of nonresident hunters or the guides they are required to hire to hunt sheep. Because nonresident guided hunters have such a higher success rate than resident hunters, this has led to localized overharvests of sheep and diminished populations, as well as crowding and conflicts between guides and resident hunters and guide-on-guide conflicts among an unlimited number of guides licensed for the same area.

Conservation and sustainability of sheep populations has not been successful under a full-curl only harvest regulation that allows for nearly every full curl ram to be taken each season, as is happening in some areas. We need to leave more full curl rams on the mountain to breed in late November at the peak of the rut, in order that they dominate the breeding and younger sub-dominant rams aren't overly taxed in competing for ewes that it affects their overwinter survival.

The prospect of resident sheep hunting going to draw-only, as it has in other areas with similar problems, is another reason to implement better conservation strategies.

Delays in implementing the proposed Department of Natural Resources Guide Concession Program (GCP) should not hamper the board's attention to these conservation issues, and as the earliest possible implementation of the GCP is now 2013, the time to act on sheep conservation is now.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued localized depletions of full-curl rams that threaten population sustainability and resident general open season sheep hunting opportunities, continued user conflicts and crowding, and continued inequitable nonresident sheep harvest rates of 40 percent annually in much of Region III.



**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS**

**PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. By limiting nonresident sheep hunting opportunities in much of Region III we thus limit the guides they must hire, thereby reducing sheep harvests. This will result in more full curl rams on the mountain to breed in November, less sub-dominant ram winter mortality, and will improve the quality of sheep hunts for both guided and unguided hunters by reducing crowding and conflicts afield.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All those who truly put the resource first and wish to see our Region III sheep populations conserved and sustained. All resident hunters. All guided nonresident hunters who want a more quality sheep hunt without the crowding and conflicts we currently have in many areas.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Some guides could suffer monetarily because of fewer nonresident clients. Division of Wildlife Conservation funding would decrease due to fewer nonresident sheep tags being sold, and some local economies could see a decrease in nonresident hunting-related tourism. (It should be noted that these are the same effects implementation of the Guide Concession Program, which is supported by the board, would have.) Nonresident sheep hunters would lose the guarantee to be able to hunt Dall sheep in parts of Region III, and would have to take their chances with a draw-only hunt.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Cap nonresident allocations at 10-15 percent of harvestable surplus based on density and population estimates. Rejected because we want to have a bit higher nonresident sliding scale allocation cap that will encourage support from more guides and other organizations.

Base nonresident draw permit sheep allocation caps on most recent 10-year harvest figures instead of density/population estimates and actual harvestable surplus. Rejected because in many areas the last ten years of harvests have been beyond what is sustainable. If ADF&G is unable to conduct current sheep density and population estimates on which to base harvestable surplus and nonresident permit numbers, a better method than basing those on harvest records is needed.

Create Region III registration sheep hunts for residents in all general (non-draw) open season areas, implement mandatory harvest reporting period, give ADF&G discretionary authority to close some sheep hunts based on harvest reports, in conjunction with our proposed solution. Rejected as unneeded at this time. However, given that the priority is sheep conservation and continued sheep hunting opportunities, resident sheep hunters need to be aware that this type of approach may be necessary, and preferable, to a draw-only hunt in the future.

September 1st start to all Region III sheep hunts where general open season (non-draw) regulations apply. Rejected. There is a need to continue to provide youth/family hunting opportunities prior to the school term. Making many resident hunters choose between sheep or moose hunting isn't the preferable avenue to fix the problems as outlined.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Chapter Backcountry Hunters & Anglers

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042911403

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**PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 85.055 . Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Dall sheep.** Convert all sheep hunts in Region III to drawing only, 90% for residents.

Hunting by drawing permit only. Residents are allotted 90 percent of the available permits. The state takes an active role managing our resource to provide trophy quality age structure and healthy ram population.

**ISSUE:** All nonresident and resident sheep tags will be issued by drawing permit basis only. The number of drawing permits and areas will be drawn up by ADF&G. Nonresident participation/permits will not exceed 10 percent of the total number of permits for any given area.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTIDNG IS DONE?** The problem has already started. Competition between user groups is becoming more problematic creating additional conflicts and lessening the overall experience of the hunt. Unlimited mismanagement of a valuable renewable resource. Lost revenue to manage the resource responsibly by the state. Non-resident advantage in resource allotment, verses all other states that manage sheep harvest responsibly for the residents that own the resource.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes-improved the amount of legal rams available per hunter in the field. Improved age structure and trophy quality by reducing over harvest. increased revenue to manage the herd responsibly by ADF&G. Lessens crowding conflicts and improves hunting experience.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Both residents and nonresident hunting groups will find the overall hunting experience will immediately improve, both with opportunities and less user conflicts. The biggest benefactor will be all residents of the state that expect ADF&G to manage this valuable resource responsibly.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Both residents and nonresident will need improved planning to participate in the drawing hunt process. Guides may have fewer clients to guide, but the hunt experience will improve. All user groups will ultimately have minimal suffering.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Statewide drawing permits only to hunt sheep. We should really consider in the long term going statewide. By changing Region III to drawing permit, this will allow some of the users to relocate or select a different hunt area if they were not successful drawing a permit.

**PROPOSED BY:** Doug Lammers

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042911400  
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**PROPOSAL 139 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Convert all nonresident sheep seasons to drawing permit hunts and limit to 5 percent of total permits.

All nonresident sheep tags will be issued on a permit drawing basis. The number of drawing permits and areas will be drawn up by the ADF&G. Nonresident participation in sheep hunts cannot exceed 5 percent of the total number of sheep tags issued in Alaska (resident & nonresident).

**ISSUE:** Management of Dall sheep, too many of our sheep are being harvested by nonresidents being guided many times by nonresident guides. My cousin from Cincinnati booked a hunt with an out-of-state guide at the SCI convention. They flew him in to the Brooks Range, the next day they shot the 1st legal ram they saw from over 300 yards and had him out in less than 72 hours.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaska resident hunters will continue to suffer from the mismanagement of this species. Alaskan youth will never have the opportunity afforded to their parents and grandparents to successfully hunt healthy populations of Dall sheep with ample populations of large rams. Alaska wildlife belongs to all Alaskans and these resources should be managed as such.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS**

**PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. Current Alaska residents and future Alaskans may be more interested in hunting Dall sheep, its management, and the future of Dall sheep hunting if they had greater opportunity to locate and harvest a legal ram, much less quality rams.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska residents, Alaska youth, and future Alaskans. Dall sheep populations may also improve as more people may feel like they have a chance at successfully harvesting a quality ram and will be more interested in the management of the resource. This benefits Alaska, all of Alaska's game resources, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonresident hunters, non-resident guides, and resident guides may suffer. Harvest records, however, show that resident sheep hunters are much less successful than non-residents because of their guides. While success rates for resident hunters will hopefully increase, there is little reason to think that non-resident success rates will decline significantly. Sheep populations will not suffer directly-again because resident hunter success rates are consistently low. Future sheep populations, however, may suffer and receive little support or interest, if today's youth and future generations cannot hunt healthy populations of sheep, as is currently the case.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Contact my legislators to push for dropping the requirement for non-residents to be guided. I rejected this solution since it appears the political and financial interests of a few, trump the best interests of Alaska residents, Alaska game resources, and Alaska itself.

**PROPOSED BY:** James Von Holle

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042811338

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**PROPOSAL 178 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Close Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages to hunting for sheep.

Close Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages to sport hunting for sheep.

**ISSUE:** Sport hunting is interfering with the traditional subsistence uses and practices of Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek by residents of Arctic Village, Venetie, Fort Yukon, Kaktovik and Chalkyitsik.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Sport hunting in Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages has created conflicts with local subsistence hunters and jeopardizes the health of the sheep population.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS**

**PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Recent data for the AVSMA (Arctic Village Sheep Management Area) where federal public lands are currently closed to non-federally qualified users is lacking. However, recent (2006, 2007, and 2008) surveys were conducted within the Cane Creek and Red Sheep Creek areas, which are within the AVSMA, but are no longer closed

to non-federally qualified users. Densities of sheep varied: 1.7 sheep/rmile<sup>2</sup> in 2006 (Payer 2006) and 0.8 sheep/mile<sup>2</sup> in 2007. Densities may have differed due to slightly differing survey areas associated with mineral licks that could have attracted sheep from outside the survey unit. In 2008, during a sheep population-composition survey, 130 sheep in 20 groups were observed with a

ratio of 59 lambs: 100 ewes, suggesting good productivity.

In 1991, Dall sheep density in the Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages was estimated to be 2.25 sheep/mile', which is higher than surveys done in 2006 and 2007. The sheep population may have declined during this interval despite harvest restrictions for non-federally qualified users. This is consistent with trends observed in other Brooks Range sheep populations, and likely reflects incomplete recovery from weather-related declines during 1990-1994. Thirty-two of 96 rams (33 percent) were classified as "mature" in the 2006 survey and six of 14 (43 percent) were classified as "mature" in the 2007 survey.

In 1996, the estimated sheep density in the southern part of the AVSMA between Cane and Crow Nest Creeks was only 0.2 sheep/mile<sup>2</sup>.

The Dall sheep population in the Cane Creek and Red Sheep Creek drainages may have declined between 1991 and 2007, while the trend for the southern part of the AVSMA is unknown. However 2008 composition data has indicated good production. Anecdotal reports from hunters suggest that sheep populations in the area continue to be relatively low. **Adoption of this proposal will allow the sheep population to retain more full curl ram sheep that are important to the breeding population of Brooks Range sheep.**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All sheep hunters, especially subsistence sheep hunters.

*Note:* This proposal was an action item from the March 2011 public meeting of the Eastern Interior Regional Council in Fairbanks.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Sport hunters hoping to hunt in Red Sheep Creek and Cane Creek drainages.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** N/A

**PROPOSED BY:** Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

**LOG NUMBER:** EG050411446

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**PROPOSAL 179 - 5 AAC 85.055. Seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Convert the general season nonresident sheep hunt to drawing hunt in the Dalton Highway Corridor area.

On lands within the Dalton Highway Corridor in Units 24A and 26B, nonresidents must draw a tag to harvest a full curl sheep.

Season: August 10 - September 20th

Number of tags: 4 tags in Unit 24A and 4 tags in Unit 26B

**ISSUE:** In the past guides have willingly chose to not guide hunters in the Dalton Highway Corridor (DHC) because of high resident hunting pressure and static subsistence use in Units 24A and 26B. In the past 2-3 years this has changed significantly with multiple guides offering bow hunts within the DHC and using aircraft to assist in locating animals directly adjacent to the DHC. This has not only reduced the already low numbers of legal rams in the area but has caused serious user conflicts while, in effect, reallocating the sheep to nonresident hunters.

Because resident hunting pressure had already been steadily rising and sheep numbers have never recovered from the early 1990's population decline this new use has added serious tension among user groups. UNTIL a guide concession program is implemented that encompasses the DHC, a drawing hunt is necessary to restrain the unlimited commercial opportunity afforded on state and BLM lands. Intensive guided hunting in this area does not work and has and will continue to victimize users that existed in equilibrium with each other before the recent guide operations started up. Also, since federal

subsistence regulations define a legal sheep as 7/8 curl, the historic subsistence harvest will further reduce the number of mature animals in the population even below the full curl threshold. The resource and social dynamic in this area is threatened by the current situation.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Tensions will rise between resident hunters and nonresident hunters as well as resentment towards ALL sport hunting by subsistence users. The perception the guided hunting is de-facto bad will be reinforced. The sheep population will be less resilient to bad weather events due to a lack of mature rams in the population to take on predation effects and train younger animals were to go in deep snow years. A lack of mature rams could reduce conception rates among ewes and result in less synchronous birthing and higher mortality rates on lambs due the high eagle populations in the central Brooks Range. A drawing hunt could be required on residents as well as nonresidents. Everyone will be less happy and a valuable sheep population that has provided excellent opportunity to bow hunters for years will remain depleted with marginal animals available for harvest. This increase in tensions and reduction in resource viability is avoidable.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

Yes. By reducing the number of guided hunters more sheep will live through the hunting season and there will be more available hunting sites without guided clients in them. As it stands now, the entire west side of the DHC in Unit 24A will have a guided client in it for entire season thus out competing resident and local hunters alike because. Guides are professionals and will get there first and spend money in air time to assure access and success.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All users, guided and non guided alike will benefit because there is a limited resource available and this will insure viability and long term quality. If this situation continues hunt prices and marketability will eventually decline due to reduced harvest rates. The initial success rates for these operations are due to the fact that local and state resident hunters have allowed sheep to live through the season and have put "sheep in the bank." By over exploiting these savings, we will be left with meager reserves of resource or social credibility. All users benefit by restraining exploitation of renewable resources.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one because there are still a total of eight drawing tags within the DHC! This is viable and realist number and financial opportunity for guides and spreads the pressure out in a way that minimizes the likelihood of user conflicts or resource depletion. By leaving trees, there are always trees to cut.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Thor Stacey

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042811360

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**PROPOSAL 188 - 5 AAC 85.055 . Hunting Seasons and Bag Limits for Dall sheep; and 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts.** Allocate 10 percent of sheep drawing permits to nonresidents.

In the Tok Management Area for sheep, 10 percent of the sheep tags are allocated to nonresidents.

**ISSUE:** That the language for the Tok Management sheep hunts read that 10 percent of the tags will go to non-resident hunters.

Right now the language reads UP TO 10 percent can go to nonresidents.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** It is becoming harder and harder for non-residents to draw Tok sheep tags and the nonresident hunter is becoming less interested in hunting Alaska knowing that over 90 percent of the sheep tags are going to resident. The non-resident sheep hunter is turning his sights on hunting Dall sheep in Canada.

We need to remember that it is our non-resident hunter that funds the Department of Fish & Game. Plus 10 percent of the sheep tags to nonresidents is a standard practice in other states.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** It improves the overall sentiment of the non-resident towards the drawing sheep hunts in Alaska.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** It will allow for a few more non-residents to hunt sheep in the TOK management area. Guides may benefit if the non-residents that draw are not next of kin. Local business and Fish & Game will benefit financially with non-residents paying high license and tag fees and using more local services.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Depending on how the draw applicants break down it will either make the odds a little tougher or the same for the resident Tok applicant.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Lance Kronberger

**LOG NUMBER:** EG041411300  
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**PROPOSAL 189 - 5 AAC 85.055.** Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and **92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts.** Close the nonresident sheep season in the Tok and Delta drawing hunts.

Tok and Delta Management Areas for sheep permits are only open for Alaskan residents.

**ISSUE:** As hunting pressure continues to grow and management techniques prove ineffective concerning herd growth, true trophy size sheep become fewer and less available. Areas where trophy rams exist need to be protected for use and access by Alaska residents. Such areas should not be open for nonresident hunters.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaskan residents will continue to lose the opportunity to have a chance at harvesting trophy class rams due to pressure from nonresident hunters.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** 1.) Harvest pressure on Tok/Delta sheep will be reduced by the elimination of commercial guide operations. 2.) Two sheep areas will be reserved for residents only.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaska residents will benefit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Alaska residents and nonresident guides will complain but their suffering would be minimal. They still could access the rest of the state.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Other sheep areas for Alaska residents were considered but Tok/Delta is best because of its already established permit program and herd potential for quality rams.

**PROPOSED BY:** Terry Marquette

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042811353

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PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep, and **92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep drawing permit hunts.** Close nonresident sheep season in the Tok and Delta drawing hunts.

No nonresident allocation will be available for Dall sheep in the Tok or Delta drawing permit hunts.

**ISSUE:** Set aside the Tok and Delta Dall sheep drawing permits for residents only.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** A limited resource will be given away to nonresidents who have no claim to Alaskan resources.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, it will provide advantage to the resident of Alaska to harvest Dall sheep without nonresident competition.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Alaskan residents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Nonresidents.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:**

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Heuer

**LOG NUMBER:** EG042811350

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**PROPOSAL 51- 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Change the horn restriction for sheep in Unit 11.

Resident season - one ram with "full curl" horn or larger; August 10 to September 20 in Unit 11.

**ISSUE:** 3/4 curl sheep in Unit 11. Need to align with the rest of the state.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued taking of younger sheep in Unit 11.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes - will improve the average horn size of legal rams in Unit 11.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Resource - hunters that want to hunt bigger sheep.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Hunters that want to shoot smaller sheep.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Copper Basin Advisory Committee

**LOG NUMBER:** EG110310152

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**PROPOSAL 52 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Change the bag limit and season for sheep in Unit 11.

<b>Units and bag limits</b>	<b>Resident</b>	<b>Nonresident</b>
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	<b>Open season</b>	<b>Open season</b>
(5) Unit 11		
[1 RAM WITH 3/4 CURL [AUG. 10 - SEPT. 20]		
HORN OR LARGER]		
<b>1 ram with full curl horn</b>	<b>Aug. 8 - Sept. 20</b>	
<b>or larger</b>		
1 ram with full-curl horn or larger		Aug. 10 - Sept. 20

**ISSUE:** Sub-legal rams taken in walk-in areas in Units 7, 12-15, 20, 25&26 may be claimed as taken in Unit 11. Reports from the hunting public of infractions of this nature usually never make it to Wildlife Troopers. Sheep hunters are often solitary by nature and need only to make it to their car with an illegal sheep. 3/4 curl regulations attract a number of extra hunters to the unit looking for an easier hunt. Some of these hunters will not hunt unit 11 if regulations are standardized, easing pressure on a low population. Sheep numbers (especially rams) in Unit 11 and surrounding Units are at all-time lows due to many factors. Unit 11 hunts are the most liberal in the state. Retaining 3/4 curl in Unit 11 regulations while creating drawing hunts in Units 13&14 is counter-intuitive. According to ADF&G decreasing sheep numbers in the Wrangell Mountains in the last 15 years is mostly due to an increase in predators, possible disease, and weather events. Nearly all of Unit 11 sheep habitat is Federal Preserve lands with no potential of predator management and very little trapping pressure. Unit 11 has an ANS set for sheep and this has long been used as a justification for keeping the liberal size limit. A two day longer season will still provide a small advantage to the resident hunter while protecting younger rams.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Criminals will continue to have an “easy out” if they get out of the field with a sub-full curl sheep. Sheep numbers in unit 11 are likely to remain low with or without this regulation due to lack of management options, 3/4 curl regulations just compound the problem.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, most sheep that reach 3/4 curl will live to be full curl. Most sheep hunters would agree that a full curl ram is a higher quality product.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Sheep hunters, sheep populations, and Wildlife Troopers will benefit.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Criminals and Poachers will no longer have an excuse to possess a sub-legal ram. Some hunters that believe 3/4 curl rams are easier to take. Hunters may have to wait two years for today’s 3/4 curls to become legal.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Adding some 3/4 curl areas in other units- rejected due to dwindling sheep numbers. Drawing hunts- rejected, drawings have already eliminated sheep hunting for many.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist

**LOG NUMBER:** EG113010259

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**PROPOSAL 53– 5 AAC . 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Change the horn restriction for sheep in Unit 11.

One ram with full curl (like the rest of the surrounding areas).

**ISSUE:** Resident harvest limit of 3/4 curl ram or larger in Unit 11.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Increased hunting pressure due to the only place in the surrounding Units that has a smaller than full curl ram harvest limit making it to "APPEAR" to have a healthier sheep population than other surrounding areas. Unit 11 has the potential or the impression the population of sheep is larger than in any other areas which it is not. Why have different regulations in one area than in surrounding Units.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. In other Units with full curl harvest limits, 3/4 to 7/8th curl rams are turned down regularly

under the full curl law which allows larger rams to be harvested later. If all residents and nonresidents are all on the same page, then you would not have the worry of less animals available in the future. We have spent nearly 50 years of experience in the area. We have witnessed the lowest sheep numbers in recent years. Maybe there is not a problem now but why create a problem for the future. With the sheep populations lower than we have ever seen. There is a "neon sign" flashing in the regulation book to come hunt Unit 11 over other surrounding areas. Due to the existing regulations, there is an appearance to a general hunter that Unit 11 has higher numbers and more shootable animals than surrounding areas. This is not the case.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Everyone. By spreading the pressure of hunters out equally to the surrounding Units for hunters who would choose Unit 11 specifically due to the smaller horn harvest limit. Road accessible areas are being hit (i.e. Nebesna Road, McCarthy Road, Hubert's Landing, etc.)

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** Residents having to judge a full curl ram.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** 3/4 curl in surrounding areas, not a good idea.

**PROPOSED BY:** Paul and John Claus, Ultima Tuile Outfitters

**LOG NUMBER:** EG10081094

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**PROPOSAL 54- 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep; and 92.171. Sealing of Dall sheep horns.** Eliminate the horn sealing requirement for sheep in Unit 13. Follow the recommendations of former Unit 13 biologist; any ram, no sealing, harvest ticket only: 1) 1 ram - license, harvest ticket and tag required (non-resident); 2) 1 ram - license, and harvest ticket required (resident).

**ISSUE:** Sealing of Dall sheep ram horns. Biologists and Fish & Wildlife officers are not qualified to seal horns due to their subjectiveness on counting annual rings. There is great disagreement amongst guides, veterinaries, biologists, and Fish & Wildlife officers on what a legal ram is and what is not with the present system.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued confiscation of legal rams causing overload on the court system as these matters are brought to trial - extremely bad public relations to the nonresident Alaska Dall sheep hunters whose fees bring in over \$600,000 a year.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** All rams taken will be brought in, used and reported - not left in the field because they were possibly too small or young.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** All sheep hunters - reduction in cases in the court system and state from sale of tags to nonresident hunters. State biologists would have accurate record of the harvest.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** None.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Before the current sealing requirements, the former system worked well for over 45 years.

**PROPOSED BY:** Ray Atkins

**LOG NUMBER:** EG102710117

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**PROPOSAL 115 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Modify the Dall sheep hunts for all Region IV Units. No harvest of ewe. Bag limit would be full curl ram only. All permit hunts would be reduced by 1/3. All sheep permit drawings with fewer than 10 available permits (by permit number, not in aggregate) would be residents only with the sole exception of the "Governor's Tag" in order to give that tag more value.

**ISSUE:** The drastic decline of sheep in the region.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued decline in sheep numbers.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. In a declining population there is no need to take any females where human consumption is not the priority. This area is most accessible to Alaska resident hunters who have a much lower success rate. Since we have real concern about sheep populations in these areas and our priority is resident we must reduce the nonresident component of the hunt to insure more opportunity to residents while still limiting the harvest.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Sheep and resident sheep hunters, those who wish to see the park Dall sheep numbers return to a higher level. Those who want to view sheep.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The guides who operate in the Unit. While this is unfortunate, the record is very pervasive in the fact that guided nonresidents have a higher success rate and must be curtailed before residents who are more often under time and financial constraint and every other state in the union restricts nonresident opportunity far greater than we do.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Closing all nonresident to hunting in Region IV, while attractive, this would preclude the incentive to some to help the sheep rebound in the state, as when we have more animals we can give out more permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

**LOG NUMBER:** EG110510188

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**PROPOSAL 116 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Change the horn restriction for Dall sheep to in Units 13D and 14A. All sheep drawing permits should be issued under the current full curl regulations.

**ISSUE:** At present draw sheep hunts in part of Unit 13D (DS160 & DS260) and all of Unit 14A are any ram hunts. This regulation has been in place for three years, during which time hunters have almost exclusively harvested less than full curl sheep and some very young rams that have not yet reached breeding age, taking them out of the gene pool before they can reproduce. The number of permits offered has been reduced by half because of the increased harvest potential.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued harvest of young rams before breeding age will mean their genetics are not reaching the gene pool. Every year that this continues, more mature rams are dying of old age or winter kill without being harvested. The any ram regulation means decreased overall hunting opportunity as the total number of permits has been cut in half.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** All harvested rams would be mature, breeding rams that have already had a chance to pass their genetics on. Young, immature rams would have more of a chance to live long enough to breed. The number of permits offered could be increased significantly, maybe doubled.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Anyone seeking a permit to hunt a mature ram will have more opportunity to draw one.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The hunter who isn't willing to do the work to harvest a mature ram might not be successful.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Status-quo means more mature rams will die without being harvested and hunter opportunity will continue to be limited.

**PROPOSED BY:** Loren Karro

**LOG NUMBER:** EG110410158

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**PROPOSAL 117 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Introduce a late season archery registration hunts in all sheep drawing areas in Region IV.

<b>Units and bag limits</b>	<b>Resident Open season</b>	<b>Nonresident open season</b>
13D east 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by permit <b>1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by archer only (up to 2 rams may be taken by non residents)</b>	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 <b>Sept. 7- Oct. 10</b>	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 <b>Sept. 7- Oct. 10</b>
13 D West 1 ram by permit <b>1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by archery only ( 1 ram may be taken by nonresidents)</b>	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 <b>Sept. 7- Oct. 10</b>	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 <b>Sept. 7- Oct. 10</b>
14 A South of the Matanuska River 1 ram by permit <b>1 ram with full-curl horn or larger by archery only (up to 2 rams may be taken by nonresidents)</b>	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 <b>Sept. 7- Oct. 10</b>	Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 <b>Sept. 7- Oct. 10</b>

**ISSUE:** Sheep hunting opportunities are dwindling with the creation of new drawing areas. Archery hunts can provide opportunity for hundreds of hunters with very little harvest increase. Late archery seasons have proven to have very low success rates in 14 C. Sheep are the single most difficult North American big game animal to harvest with archery equipment. A registration hunt may be held in these areas if the area biologist feels there are enough rams to justify the season. Area managers should have a good idea of how the season went by early September because most people hunt in august. If the weather was great and many sheep where taken the first couple weeks of the season the hunt can be EO closed. Non-Resident take is limited because Non-resident archery hunters are many times more successful than resident hunters. Season dates were chosen based on the 14C archery hunt to eliminate confusion.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Only a small number of people will have the opportunity to hunt sheep in these sought after locations.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCT PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** No

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Sheep hunters. Those willing to take the time to use archery gear and brave the weather of late sheep season.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** No one.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** Drawing hunts, unnecessary due to low success rates. Late Bow hunts in all open sheep areas.

**PROPOSED BY:** Aaron Bloomquist

**LOG NUMBER:** EG113010252

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**PROPOSAL 133 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Modify the Dall sheep hunt in Unit 14C.

No harvest of ewe. Bag limit would be full curl ram only. All permit hunts would be reduced by 1/3. All sheep permit drawings with fewer than 10 available permits (by permit number, not in aggregate) would be residents only with the sole exception of the "Governor's Tag" in order to give that tag more value.

**ISSUE:** The drastic decline of sheep in 14C

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued decline in sheep numbers.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. In a declining population there is no need to take any females where human consumption is not the priority. This area is mostly the park, which in its' legislative intent in part was meant to keep a place where urban Alaska resident hunters were always able to go. Since that is part of the park's legislative intent, it should be reflected by the Board of Game in setting the availability of permits to nonresidents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Sheep and resident sheep hunters, those who wish to see the park Dall sheep numbers return to a higher level. Those who want to view sheep.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The guides who operate in the Unit. While this is unfortunate, the legislative intent on the record is very pervasive and if we continue to give so many permits to nonresidents then those who argue for no hunting in the park have a stronger argument, sighting the conflict with the intent suggesting that the reason for the allowance is no longer necessary and should be discontinued.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Closing all nonresident to hunting in Unit 14C, while attractive, this would preclude the incentive to some to help the sheep rebound in the state, as when we have more animals we can give out more permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Anchorage Advisory Committee

**LOG NUMBER:** EG110510186

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**PROPOSAL 134 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Close Unit 14C to nonresident sheep hunting.

Unit 14C closed to nonresidents for sheep hunting; residents only.

**ISSUE:** Hunting season bag limits for Dall sheep in Unit 14C; make all of Unit 14C a resident only hunt, except for the Governor's tag.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Alaska residents will continue to lose out on this highly prized tag to nonresident hunters. This amounted to a total of 17 tags going to nonresidents in 2010. As it is now, with the no more than 10 percent rule begin applied to all the hunts in the Unit 14C area, that percentage runs from 11 percent to 33 percent of available tags going to nonresidents, except for the two archery hunts where it's 5.6 percent for nonresidents.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. This proposal not only addresses improving the chances / odds of Alaskan sheep hunters who applied for the 186 tags for the 2010 season, but should lead to more mature rams surviving due to the success rate of the guided hunters over non-guided hunters, which could/should lead to more tags being available/opportunities for resident hunters in future years.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The 5,549 Alaskans who applied for the 2010 season. This hunt area is one of only a few in the state that the average Alaskan can afford, and have access to one of the most prized trophies in Alaska. It is within the road system, making it accessible and affordable to all Alaskans, including father/sons or daughters who hunt together. In 2010, 17 of those tags went to nonresidents with the current "no more than 10 percent" rule in place. Most of Unit 14C falls within the boundary of Chugach State Park lands.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The Department of Fish and Game would lose the five dollar per permit fee. There was 608 out of state applications for Unit 14C this year (2010). Nonresidents would have to direct their attention to the other limited entry areas in the state, which for the most part they are doing in addition to their Unit 14C hunt application. The guides could suffer, having said that, the guides have access to more remote areas in the state in which to take their clients sheep hunting.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** None. This is State Park lands and we believe the hunting opportunities should be set aside for the residents of Alaska when the demand by far exceeds the available resource.

**PROPOSED BY:** Anchorage Advisory Committee

**LOG NUMBER:** EG110910201

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**PROPOSAL 190 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.** Modify the Dall sheep hunts for all Units in Region II.

No harvest of ewe. Bag limit would be full curl ram only. All permit hunts would be reduced by 1/3. All sheep permit drawings with fewer than 10 available permits (by permit number, not in aggregate) would be residents only with the sole exception of the "Governor's Tag" in order to give that tag more value.

**ISSUE:** The drastic decline of sheep in Region II.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** Continued decline in sheep numbers.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes. In a declining population there is no need to take any females where human consumption is not the priority. This area is mostly the park, which in it legislative intent in part was meant to keep a place where urban Alaska resident hunters were always able to go. Since that is part of the park's legislative intent, it should be reflected by the Board of Game in setting the availability of permits to nonresidents.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** Sheep and resident sheep hunters, those who wish to see the park Dall sheep numbers return to a higher level. Those who want to view sheep.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** The guides who operate in the Unit. While this is unfortunate, the record is very pervasive and if we continue to give so many permits to nonresidents then those who argue for no hunting in the park have a stronger argument, sighting the conflict with the intent suggesting that the reason for the allowance is no longer necessary and should be discontinued.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED:** Closing all nonresident to hunting in Region II, while attractive, this would preclude the incentive to some to help the sheep rebound in the state, as when we have more animals we can give out more permits.

**PROPOSED BY:** Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee

**LOG NUMBER:** EG110510187

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**PROPOSAL 216 - 5 AAC 92.230. Feeding of game.** Prohibit the feeding of Dall sheep.

The language we request to be added would look something similar to: 5AAC 92.230 ...A person may not negligently feed a Dall sheep... .

**ISSUE:** Currently, this regulation identifies the species of animals that a person is not allowed to feed in Alaska without a permit. Dall sheep are not one of these listed animals. AWT has had problems with feeding of game through the use of salt licks being placed out on the Seward highway near bird point to attract sheep to the area for photographs. Vehicles stopping in this area create public safety hazards and cause traffic to slow or stop. By adding Dall sheep to this list, it will assist the Alaska Wildlife Troopers in dealing with these problems.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If this is not solved, Dall sheep will be allowed to be fed.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?**

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The public will benefit through enforcement of this regulation.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People likely to suffer will be ones that break the law.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED?** None.

**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Wildlife Troopers

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**PROPOSAL 219- 5 AAC 92.171. Sealing of Dall sheep horns.** Prohibit the alteration of Dall sheep horns before sealing.

The regulation would look something similar to: "A person may not alter, posses, transport or export from the state, the horns of a Dall sheep ram taken in any hunt where there is a horn configuration bag limit... unless the horns have been permanently sealed by a department representative within 30 days after the taking, or a lesser time if designated by the department."

**ISSUE:** 5AAC 92.171, sealing of Dall sheep horns. AWT would like to add language to this regulation that would prohibit "altering" sheep horns before sealing. AWT has seen cases recently where hunters and guides are intentionally altering Dall sheep horns so they conform to the requirements of a legal animal. By adding the word "alter" to this regulation, it will give AWT a tool to deal with this problem.

**WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF NOTHING IS DONE?** If this is not solved, People will be able to alter sheep horns before they are sealed, possibly making an otherwise illegal animal legal by definition.

**WILL THE QUALITY OF THE RESOURCE HARVESTED OR THE PRODUCTS PRODUCED BE IMPROVED?** Yes, it keeps hunters on a fair playing field does not reward hunters for taking an illegal animal and making it legal.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO BENEFIT?** The public will benefit through enforcement of this regulation.

**WHO IS LIKELY TO SUFFER?** People likely to suffer will be ones that break the law.

**OTHER SOLUTIONS CONSIDERED** None

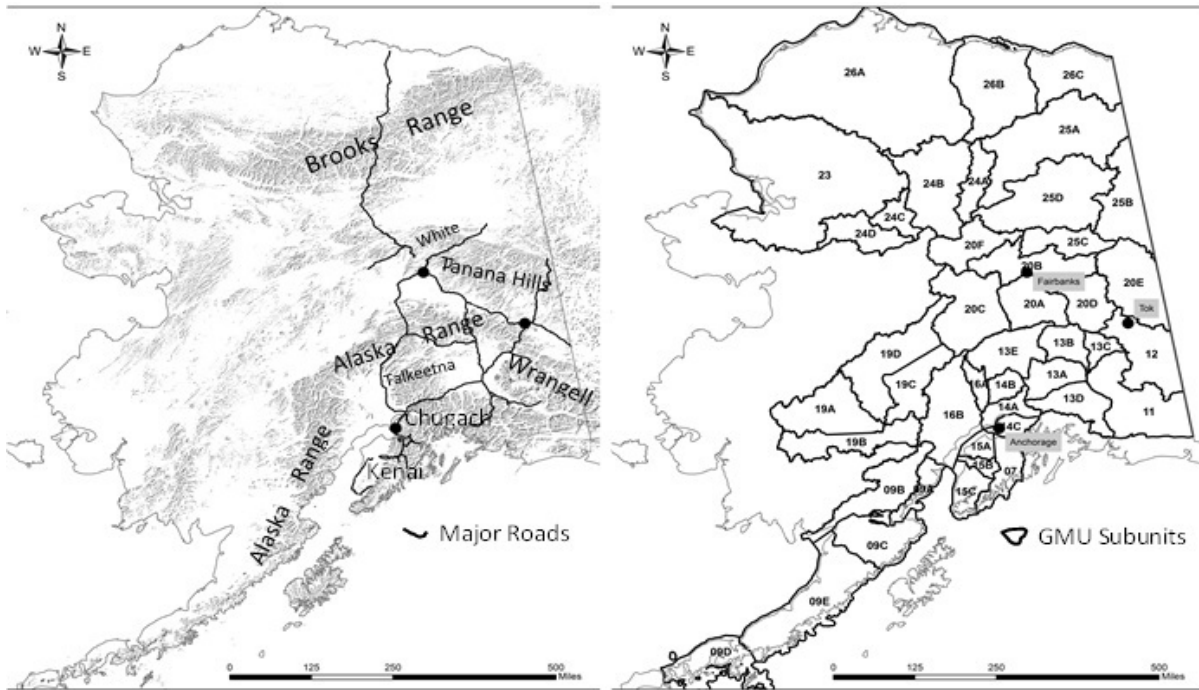
**PROPOSED BY:** Alaska Wildlife Troopers

**LOG NUMBER:** EG112410248

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**Appendix B.** Responses (red font) from Alaska resident sheep hunters to all questions asked on the 2014 Alaska Sheep Hunter Survey. This survey (conducted summer 2014) addressed specific information needs identified by the Alaska Board of Game (BOG). Information needs were related to proposals (Appendix A) submitted to the BOG in recent years expressing concern of a decline in the quality of sheep hunting in Alaska because of unacceptable levels of crowding, competition, and conflict among interest groups. Interest groups included resident sheep hunters, nonresident sheep hunters, and commercial operators (hunting guides, transporters, and air taxis) providing services to sheep hunters. The questionnaire collected information on characteristics and attitudes of sheep hunters to answer the following questions: 1) Is there a sheep hunter problem? 2) Why is there a sheep hunter problem? and 3) How might sheep hunting be improved? *NOTE: Some values reported in Appendix B may differ from Final Report on Resident Sheep Hunter Responses because the Final Report excluded responses from people that had never hunted sheep (7% of responses) in Alaska.*



Map 1. Major mountain ranges of Alaska containing sheep hunts.

Map 2. Alaska Department of Fish & Game’s Game Management Unit (GMU) Subunits containing sheep hunts.

**Question 1:** Have you hunted sheep in Alaska?

- Yes (n=698) 93%
- No (skip to question 29) (n=51) 7%

**Question 2:** Which mountain ranges (please see maps 1 & 2) in Alaska have you hunted sheep in (fill in all that apply)? (n=698)

	During the last 5 years (2009-2013)	During your life
Alaska Range (GMU 9, 16, 17, 19, 20A, 20C)	31%	46%
Brooks Range (GMU 23, 24, 25A, 25B, 25D, 26)	31%	42%
Chugach Mountains (GMU 13D, 14A, 14C)	15%	33%
Kenai Mountains (GMU 7, 15)	7%	14%
Talkeetna Mountains (GMU 13A, 13E, 14A, 14B)	13%	22%
Tanana Hills (GMU 20B, 20D, 20E)	6%	10%
White Mountains (GMU 20B, 20F, 25C)	3%	6%
Wrangell Mountains (GMU 11, 12)	27%	43%

**Question 3:** Which mountain range (please see maps 1 & 2) in Alaska is most important to you for sheep hunting (**please fill in one**)? (n=692)

- Alaska Range 23%       Kenai Mountains 4%       White Mountains 1%  
 Brooks Range 22%       Talkeetna Mountains 7%       Wrangell Mountains 19%  
 Chugach Mountains 11%       Tanana Hills 3%       Unsure 10%

**Question 4:** How frequently do you switch mountain ranges that you hunt Alaska sheep in (please see question 2 for ranges)? (n=685)

- I switch ranges every time that I go sheep hunting 9%  
 I switch ranges every 2-5 times that I go sheep hunting 36%  
 I switch ranges every 6-10 times that I go sheep hunting 11%  
 I have only hunted sheep in one range (**skip to question 6**) 44%

**Question 5:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following reasons why you switch ranges to hunt in?

Reason	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Changes in sheep population size (n=372)	18%	44%	30%	4%	4%
To avoid competition with other hunters (n=368)	45%	35%	16%	2%	2%
To avoid competition with professional guides (n=370)	46%	24%	23%	4%	3%
Because you received a drawing permit (n=373)	52%	17%	23%	2%	7%
Changes in amount of time you have to hunt (n=361)	14%	36%	37%	6%	7%
For a new experience (n=369)	36%	46%	13%	4%	1%
Cost of the hunt (n=361)	12%	37%	36%	6%	9%
Other (describe):					

**Question 6:** What year did you start hunting sheep in Alaska? (please write response YYYY) (n=677) Mean = 1998 (SD = 13.5)

**Question 7:** How many years have you gone sheep hunting in Alaska? (please write response) (n=680) Mean = 9 years (SD = 10.0)

**Question 8:** Which methods have you used to hunt sheep in Alaska (fill in all that apply)? (n=698)

- Rifle 95%       Muzzleloader 1%       Archery 16%       Pistol 2%

**Question 9:** Which mode of access do you use the **most** to get to where you begin hunting on foot for sheep in Alaska? (n=682)

- Airplane (commercial service) 33%       Pack animal (horse, mule, alpaca) 2%  
 Airplane (my own, family member's, friend's) 16%       Passenger vehicle (car, truck) 24%  
 ATV (4-wheeler, track vehicle, side-by-side) 20%       Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Snow machine 1%  
 Boat (includes raft and canoe) 6%

**Question 10:** Which type of sheep hunt have you participated in (**fill in all that apply**)? (n=698)

Type of hunt	During the last 5 years (2009-2013)	During your life
Drawing	31%	48%
General harvest	72%	85%
Registration/Subsistence	10%	13%

**Question 11:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following reasons why you hunt sheep in Alaska?

Reason	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly agree
For the meat (n=686)	63%	30%	4%	2%	1%
To interact with nature (n=667)	70%	25%	5%	0%	1%
For the trophy opportunity (n=666)	41%	40%	11%	4%	5%
To spend time with family & friends (n=665)	47%	34%	14%	3%	2%
For customary and traditional reasons (n=641)	16%	20%	45%	8%	11%
For sport and the challenge (n=675)	67%	26%	5%	1%	1%

**Question 12:** Compared to the hunting of other game species in Alaska, how important is sheep hunting to you?

Species or group of species	Less important than sheep hunting	Equally important to sheep hunting	More important than sheep hunting
Black bear (n=685)	76%	21%	3%
Brown/Grizzly bear (n=681)	69%	28%	4%
Bison (n=677)	65%	25%	10%
Caribou (n=684)	47%	38%	15%
Deer (n=680)	63%	28%	10%
Elk (n=676)	77%	20%	4%
Moose (n=681)	29%	42%	29%
Mountain goat (n=677)	54%	42%	4%
Muskox (n=674)	78%	18%	4%
Small game (grouse, hares, ptarmigan, waterfowl) (n=681)	60%	32%	8%

**Question 13:** How frequently do you use a professional guide to hunt sheep in Alaska? (n=691)

- Never 96%       Rarely 3%       Most of the time 0%       Always 1%

**Question 14:** How frequently do you use a professional transporter/air taxi to hunt sheep in Alaska? (n=692)

- Never 43%       Rarely 26%       Most of the time 23%       Always 9%

**Question 15: (Nonresidents only)** Do you have second-degree of kindred that are residents of Alaska? *Second-degree of kindred includes father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, spouse, grandparent, grandchild, brother/sister-in-law, son/daughter-in-law, father/mother-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepsister, stepbrother, stepson, or stepdaughter.*

NA

**Question 16: (Nonresidents only)** When you sheep hunt in Alaska, how frequently do you hunt with Alaska residents that are second-degree of kindred (see question 15 for definition)?

NA

**Question 17:** Do you feel that limits should be placed on the percentage of sheep tags allocated to nonresidents? (n=668)

- Yes 88% What percentage of total allocation should nonresidents receive? (please write response) Median = 10% (SD = 12)
- No 12%

**Question 18:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that sheep hunter crowding is a problem in the following areas?

Areas	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
In Alaska overall (n=672)	26%	40%	16%	5%	1%	13%
In the range most important to you (n=670)	30%	36%	18%	8%	2%	6%

**Question 19:** If you feel sheep hunter competition and crowding is a problem, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following causes of competition and crowding? (Analyzed responses that agreed or strongly agreed on question 18)

Reason	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
Fewer legal rams (n=496)	41%	42%	10%	3%	2%	2%
More resident hunters (n=491)	25%	44%	19%	7%	4%	2%
More nonresident hunters (n=498)	47%	36%	10%	2%	1%	4%
More professional guides (n=498)	58%	24%	11%	2%	2%	3%
More professional transporters/air taxis (n=496)	42%	31%	19%	3%	1%	4%
More Alaska residents with planes (n=494)	17%	34%	33%	9%	2%	5%
Decline in sheep distribution (n=489)	23%	34%	30%	5%	2%	6%
Drawing areas displacing hunters to general harvest areas (n=494)	29%	35%	24%	5%	2%	6%
Decline in hunter ethics (n=490)	19%	30%	34%	8%	5%	4%
Other (describe):						

**Question 20:** How tolerable or intolerable are the following levels of crowding while sheep hunting?

Levels of crowding	Very tolerable	Somewhat tolerable	Neither	Somewhat intolerable	Very intolerable
I see a small plane in the air passing over the area I'm hunting (n=667)	30%	38%	13%	14%	4%
I see a small plane on the ground in the area I'm hunting (n=666)	6%	27%	18%	32%	18%
I see a small plane searching for sheep in the area I'm hunting (n=665)	3%	15%	11%	32%	38%
I see another hunter while hunting (n=664)	6%	30%	21%	31%	13%
I see another hunter camp while hunting (n=664)	5%	26%	24%	33%	12%
I see multiple hunters and camps while hunting (n=665)	3%	6%	8%	35%	48%
I have to change where I hunt to avoid other hunters (n=665)	3%	8%	13%	30%	46%
Other hunters interrupt my stalk on a sheep (n=665)	1%	2%	8%	12%	77%
I can't get away from other hunters (n=662)	1%	2%	14%	15%	67%
Other (describe):					

**Question 21:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that there is too much harvest pressure on the sheep population in the following areas?

Areas	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
In Alaska overall (n=671)	14%	38%	24%	6%	2%	16%
In the range most important to you (n=673)	23%	30%	26%	11%	2%	9%

**Question 22:** Since you started hunting sheep in Alaska, to what extent do you feel that the sheep population has increased or decreased in following areas?

Areas	Significant increase	Slight increase	Neither	Slight decrease	Significant decrease	Unsure
In Alaska overall (n=671)	1%	3%	25%	26%	21%	24%
In the range most important to you (n=669)	2%	4%	25%	25%	28%	16%

**Question 23:** How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following current sheep management and regulation characteristics?

Characteristic	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Sheep population size (n=661)	6%	33%	23%	29%	9%
Full-curl regulation (n=662)	40%	32%	10%	13%	5%
Length of sheep hunting season (Aug. 10 – Sep. 20) (n=666)	41%	35%	13%	8%	3%
Number of other hunters seen while sheep hunting (n=664)	5%	21%	29%	36%	8%
Number of drawing hunts (n=660)	7%	30%	35%	21%	7%
Number of general harvest hunts (n=666)	13%	35%	33%	14%	5%
Number of registration/subsistence hunts (n=661)	7%	15%	49%	19%	11%
Regulation of professional guides (n=661)	4%	15%	26%	27%	29%
Regulation of professional transporters (n=662)	5%	16%	40%	23%	16%
Level of enforcement in the field (n=664)	12%	26%	39%	17%	7%
Horn sealing requirements (n=657)	24%	28%	28%	11%	10%
Allocation of tags to nonresident hunters (n=657)	3%	8%	29%	32%	29%
Allocation of tags to nonresident second-degree of kindred (see question 15 for definition) hunters (n=658)	6%	14%	41%	24%	15%
Statute requiring nonresidents to hire professional guides (n=664)	52%	23%	14%	7%	5%
Other: Describe					

**Question 24:** To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following changes in timing of the sheep hunting season?

Timing of hunt	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Start a week sooner (n=665)	6%	14%	38%	19%	24%
Start a week sooner for residents only (n=654)	29%	27%	18%	13%	14%
Start a week later (n=656)	4%	9%	44%	21%	23%
Start a week later for non-residents only (n=656)	35%	30%	17%	8%	10%
Lengthen overall season (n=654)	12%	19%	34%	16%	19%
Shorten overall season (n=649)	2%	5%	33%	27%	33%
Divide into early and late seasons (Example: Aug. 10-25 & Aug. 26-Sept. 20) (n=653)	8%	22%	36%	12%	21%
Seasons should stay the same (n=661)	29%	24%	35%	8%	5%
Other: Describe					

**Question 25:** Would you like to see more or less law enforcement in the field during the sheep hunting season? (n=669)

- Much more 10%       Same 52%       Much less 5%  
 Slightly more 20%       Slightly less 6%       Unsure 7%

**Question 26:** Currently, hunters are not allowed to hunt sheep the same day airborne, and it is against the law to hunt until 3:00 a.m. the following day after you have flown. An aircraft can be used during the hunting season to spot sheep. To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following changes?

Change in regulation	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Remove same day airborne regulation (n=664)	3%	2%	5%	11%	79%
Do not allow hunting until 12 hours after day flown (n=655)	18%	26%	19%	15%	22%
Do not allow hunting until 24 hours after day flown (n=656)	27%	13%	18%	15%	27%
Do not allow hunters to spot sheep with an aircraft during the hunting season (n=663)	31%	18%	16%	15%	20%
Regulation should stay the same (n=656)	28%	22%	28%	12%	10%

**Question 27:** To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following increases in special Alaska sheep hunts?

Type of hunt	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
More archery only hunts (n=656)	28%	22%	28%	12%	10%
More youth only hunts (n=667)	17%	24%	31%	15%	13%
More muzzleloader only hunts (n=664)	7%	15%	41%	19%	19%
More non-motorized hunts (n=655)	27%	24%	30%	10%	10%
More subsistence hunts (n=658)	7%	9%	26%	17%	40%
More trophy (old and large rams) management hunts (n=655)	19%	30%	29%	13%	10%
Sheep hunts should stay the same (n=655)	15%	30%	37%	12%	5%

**Question 28:** *In drawing areas only*, to what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following types of sheep hunts?

Type of hunt	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Any sheep (n=656)	8%	13%	12%	21%	46%
Any ram (n=656)	12%	20%	11%	21%	37%
3/4 curl or bigger (n=647)	16%	30%	14%	15%	25%
Full curl or bigger (n=657)	54%	27%	11%	5%	3%
Trophy (large and old full-curl rams) (n=655)	36%	26%	23%	8%	8%

**Question 29:** How important or unimportant are the **following factors** to your sheep hunting satisfaction in Alaska?

Factor	Very important	Somewhat important	Neither	Somewhat unimportant	Very unimportant
Opportunity to hunt sheep every year (n=673)	64%	25%	6%	5%	1%
Opportunity for walk-in hunts in non-motorized areas (n=675)	43%	32%	15%	6%	4%
Seclusion from other hunters (n=675)	60%	32%	6%	1%	1%
Seclusion from plane traffic (n=673)	34%	41%	17%	5%	2%
Level of crowding and competition (n=673)	60%	32%	6%	1%	1%
Number of sheep seen (n=675)	49%	41%	7%	3%	0%
Number of legal rams seen (n=674)	56%	37%	5%	2%	0%
Opportunity to harvest a sheep (any ram) (n=674)	20%	27%	21%	17%	15%
Opportunity to harvest a full-curl ram (n=672)	50%	38%	7%	3%	1%
Opportunity to harvest a very large (>40 inch) ram (n=673)	33%	34%	18%	11%	6%
Harvest success (n=675)	30%	47%	15%	6%	2%
Size of ram harvested (n=674)	16%	46%	22%	12%	4%
Cost of a sheep hunt (n=670)	26%	33%	23%	12%	7%
Opportunity to hire professional transporters or guides (n=670)	7%	14%	23%	17%	39%
Physical difficulty of the hunt (ex: distance you have to walk) (n=672)	13%	34%	26%	17%	10%
Weather (n=666)	18%	30%	30%	14%	8%

**Question 30:** Please rank the **following sources of information** based on how much or little they influence your opinion of sheep hunting opportunities in Alaska? (1 = most influence, 4 = least influence)

Source	1	2	3	4
Agency (ADF&G, USFWS) data and publications (n=668)	18%	32%	36%	14%
My own sheep hunting experience (n=667)	67%	20%	8%	6%
Conversations with fellow hunters (includes internet forums) (n=669)	17%	42%	30%	11%
Sheep hunting/conservation organizations (Example: WSF, FNAWS, SCI, GSCO) (n=663)	4%	8%	16%	72%
Other (describe):				

**Question 31:** How frequently do you apply for a sheep drawing tag? (n=676)

- Every year 54%
  Once every 6-9 years 3%
  Most years (2 out of every 3 years) 17%
  Once every 10 or more years 5%
  Once every 3-5 years 8%
  I've never applied for a drawing tag 15%

**Question 32:** If you **do NOT** draw a permit, how likely or unlikely are you to go sheep hunting? (n=665)

- Very likely 41%
  Somewhat likely 27%
  Neither 12%
  Somewhat unlikely 13%
  Very unlikely 8%

**Question 33:** To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following changes to reduce sheep hunting pressure, competition, and crowding?

Change	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
More drawing hunts (n=660)	16%	36%	16%	19%	14%
Reduce hunting season length (n=652)	3%	10%	22%	37%	29%
Reduce tag allocation to nonresidents hunting with second-degree of kindred (see question 15 for definition) Alaska residents (n=663)	33%	31%	18%	12%	7%
Reduce tag allocation to nonresidents hunting with professional guides (n=668)	51%	26%	12%	5%	6%
Limit hunters to 1 sheep tag every 3 years (n=665)	11%	20%	9%	21%	40%
After harvesting a sheep, hunters must wait 3 years to hunt sheep again (n=663)	12%	23%	8%	17%	39%
Reduce motorized access (n=657)	20%	28%	22%	17%	12%
Prohibit spotting sheep from aircraft during hunting season (n=664)	31%	22%	19%	14%	14%
Increase resident tag fees (n=664)	16%	16%	19%	19%	30%
Increase nonresident tag fees (n=662)	49%	24%	15%	7%	5%
No changes should be made (n=621)	7%	11%	44%	19%	20%
Other (describe):					

**Question 34:** Do you feel that Alaska residents should pay for a sheep tag (currently free with license)? (n=672)

- Yes 40%
  No (skip to question 37) 60%

**Question 35:** How much should an Alaska resident pay for a sheep tag? (n=268)

- \$10
  \$75
  \$25
  \$100
  \$50 (Median value of responses)
  Different amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 36: (Alaska Resident only)** How much would you be willing to pay for a sheep tag if allocation of nonresident sheep tags were reduced? (n=262)

- \$10
  \$75 (Median value of responses)
  \$25
  \$100
  \$50
  Different amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 37:** Do you feel that the price of a nonresident sheep tag should change (current price is \$425)? (n=675)

- Yes 70%
- No (skip to question 39) 30%

**Question 38:** How much should a nonresident pay for a sheep tag? (n=467)

- Less than \$425
- \$500
- \$750
- \$1000 (Median value of response)
- \$1250
- Different amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 39:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that the average Alaska sheep hunter is sufficiently educated on sheep hunting issues in Alaska? (n=671)

- Strongly agree 3%
- Somewhat agree 38%
- Neither 18%
- Somewhat disagree 28%
- Strongly disagree 11%
- Unsure 2%

**Question 40:** Which of the following categories best describes your approximate household income in 2013? (n=643)

- Less than \$25,000 4%
- \$25,001 - \$50,000 11%
- \$50,001 - \$75,000 17%
- \$75,001 - \$100,000 22%
- \$100,001 - \$125,000 18%
- \$125,001 - \$150,000 10%
- \$150,001 - \$175,000 7%
- More than \$175,000 12%

**Question 41:** Which of the following categories best describes the highest level of education that you have received? (n=661)

- Some high school 1%
- Graduated from high school 15%
- Some college 24%
- Graduated from college 33%
- Some graduate school 6%
- Completed graduate school 20%

**Question 42:** If you are an Alaska resident, how long have you been a resident? (n=670) (please write response) Mean = 26 (SD=19) years

**Question 43:** What is your age? (n=675) (please write response) Mean = 47 (SD=14) years old

**Question 44:** What is your gender? (n=930)

- Male 93%
- Female 7%

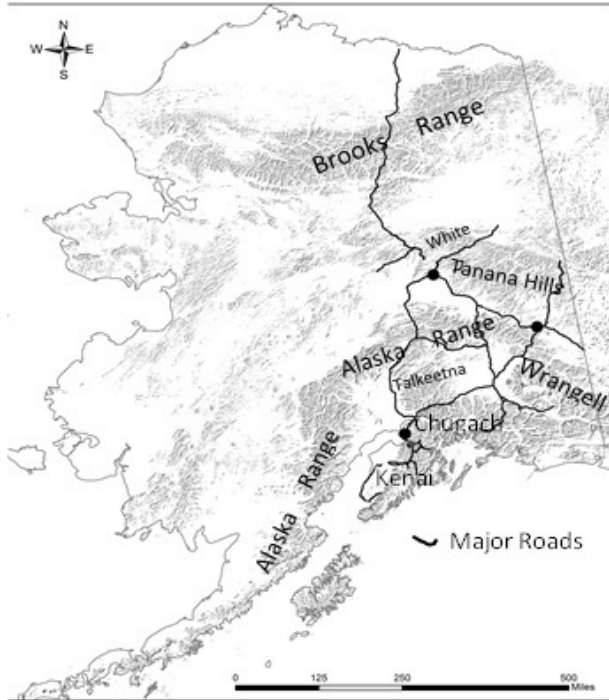
**Questions?** Please feel free to contact the project leader:

Dr. Todd Brinkman, Assistant Professor  
 Department of Biology and Wildlife, University of Alaska Fairbanks  
 Phone: (907)474-7139, Email: [tjbrinkman@alaska.edu](mailto:tjbrinkman@alaska.edu)

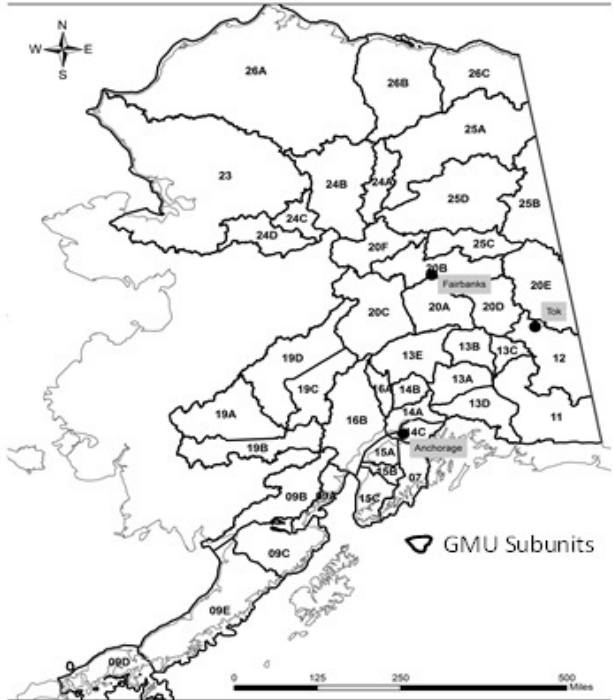




**Appendix C.** Responses (red font) from nonresident sheep hunters to all questions asked on the 2014 Alaska Sheep Hunter Survey. This survey (conducted summer 2014) addressed specific information needs identified by the Alaska Board of Game (BOG). Information needs were related to proposals (Appendix A) submitted to the BOG in recent years expressing concern of a decline in the quality of sheep hunting in Alaska because of unacceptable levels of crowding, competition, and conflict among interest groups. Interest groups included resident sheep hunters, nonresident sheep hunters, and commercial operators (hunting guides, transporters, and air taxis) providing services to sheep hunters. The questionnaire collected information on characteristics and attitudes of sheep hunters to answer the following questions: 1) Is there a sheep hunter problem? 2) Why is there a sheep hunter problem? and 3) How might sheep hunting be improved?



Map 1. Major mountain ranges of Alaska containing sheep hunts.



Map 2. Alaska Department of Fish & Game's Game Management Unit (GMU) Subunits containing sheep hunts.

**Question 1:** Have you hunted sheep in Alaska?

- Yes (n=269) 88%
- No (skip to question 29) (n=37) 12%

**Question 2:** Which mountain ranges (please see maps 1 & 2) in Alaska have you hunted sheep in (fill in all that apply)? (n=269)

	During the last 5 years (2009-2013)	During your life
Alaska Range (GMU 9, 16, 17, 19, 20A, 20C)	34%	41%
Brooks Range (GMU 23, 24, 25A, 25B, 25D, 26)	31%	35%
Chugach Mountains (GMU 13D, 14A, 14C)	10%	16%
Kenai Mountains (GMU 7, 15)	0.4%	2%
Talkeetna Mountains (GMU 13A, 13E, 14A, 14B)	6%	10%
Tanana Hills (GMU 20B, 20D, 20E)	2%	3%
White Mountains (GMU 20B, 20F, 25C)	0.4%	1%
Wrangell Mountains (GMU 11, 12)	13%	20%

**Question 3:** Which mountain range (please see maps 1 & 2) in Alaska is most important to you for sheep hunting (**please fill in one**)? (n=264)

- Alaska Range 22%       Kenai Mountains 0%       White Mountains 0%  
 Brooks Range 30%       Talkeetna Mountains 1%       Wrangell Mountains 10%  
 Chugach Mountains 11%       Tanana Hills 2%       Unsure 19%

**Question 4:** How frequently do you switch mountain ranges that you hunt Alaska sheep in (please see question 2 for ranges)? (n=259)

- I switch ranges every time that I go sheep hunting 11%  
 I switch ranges every 2-5 times that I go sheep hunting 11%  
 I switch ranges every 6-10 times that I go sheep hunting 2%  
 I have only hunted sheep in one range (**skip to question 6**) 76%

**Question 5:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following reasons why you switch ranges to hunt in?

Reason	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree
Changes in sheep population size (n=61)	15%	36%	38%	7%	5%
To avoid competition with other hunters (n=63)	33%	49%	11%	2%	5%
To avoid competition with professional guides (n=63)	21%	33%	35%	3%	8%
Because you received a drawing permit (n=66)	40%	21%	32%	0%	8%
Changes in amount of time you have to hunt (n=64)	6%	27%	41%	9%	17%
For a new experience (n=65)	54%	29%	14%	2%	1%
Cost of the hunt (n=64)	14%	31%	44%	3%	8%
Other (describe):					

**Question 6:** What year did you start hunting sheep in Alaska? (please write response YYYY) (n=259) Mean = 2007 (SD = 7.2)

**Question 7:** How many years have you gone sheep hunting in Alaska? (please write response) (n=264) Mean = 2 years (SD = 1.6)

**Question 8:** Which methods have you used to hunt sheep in Alaska (fill in all that apply)? (n=269)

- Rifle 94%       Muzzleloader 1%       Archery 7%       Pistol 0%

**Question 9:** Which mode of access do you use the **most** to get to where you begin hunting on foot for sheep in Alaska? (n=253)

- Airplane (commercial service) 72%       Pack animal (horse, mule, alpaca) 7%  
 Airplane (my own, family member's, friend's) 5%       Passenger vehicle (car, truck) 10%  
 ATV (4-wheeler, track vehicle, side-by-side) 4%       Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Snow machine 0%  
 Boat (includes raft and canoe) 2%

**Question 10:** Which type of sheep hunt have you participated in (**fill in all that apply**)? (n=269)

Type of hunt	During the last 5 years (2009-2013)	During your life
Drawing	21%	27%
General harvest	71%	83%
Registration/Subsistence	2%	2%

**Question 11:** To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following reasons why you hunt sheep in Alaska?

Reason	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly agree
For the meat (n=259)	28%	39%	19%	5%	9%
To interact with nature (n=260)	64%	30%	5%	1%	0%
For the trophy opportunity (n=263)	73%	22%	3%	1%	0%
To spend time with family & friends (n=257)	31%	28%	31%	4%	6%
For customary and traditional reasons (n=250)	10%	24%	51%	7%	9%
For sport and the challenge (n=263)	84%	14%	2%	0%	0%
Other (describe):					

**Question 12:** Compared to the hunting of other game species in Alaska, how important is sheep hunting to you?

Species or group of species	Less important than sheep hunting	Equally important to sheep hunting	More important than sheep hunting
Black bear (n=261)	84%	13%	3%
Brown/Grizzly bear (n=262)	37%	56%	7%
Bison (n=259)	78%	20%	3%
Caribou (n=262)	65%	32%	4%
Deer (n=258)	83%	14%	2%
Elk (n=260)	83%	14%	3%
Moose (n=260)	36%	57%	7%
Mountain goat (n=259)	41%	57%	2%
Muskox (n=259)	72%	25%	3%
Small game (grouse, hares, ptarmigan, waterfowl) (n=255)	87%	11%	2%

**Question 13:** How frequently do you use a professional guide to hunt sheep in Alaska? (n=264)

- Never 18%       Rarely 5%       Most of the time 8%       Always 69%

**Question 14:** How frequently do you use a professional transporter/air taxi to hunt sheep in Alaska? (n=263)

- Never 15%       Rarely 6%       Most of the time 18%       Always 61%

**Question 15: (Nonresidents only)** Do you have second-degree of kindred that are residents of Alaska? *Second-degree of kindred includes father, mother, brother, sister, son, daughter, spouse, grandparent, grandchild, brother/sister-in-law, son/daughter-in-law, father/mother-in-law, stepfather, stepmother, stepsister, stepbrother, stepson, or stepdaughter.* (n=257)

- Yes 20%       No (Skip to question 17) 80%

**Question 16: (Nonresidents only)** When you sheep hunt in Alaska, how frequently do you hunt with Alaska residents that are second-degree of kindred (see question 15 for definition)? (n=52)

- Never 11%       Sometimes 10%       Always 79%

**Question 17:** Do you feel that limits should be placed on the percentage of sheep tags allocated to nonresidents? (n=255)

- Yes 24% What percentage of total allocation should nonresidents receive? (please write response) Median = 25% (SD = 15)  
 No 76%

**Question 18:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that sheep hunter crowding is a problem in the following areas?

Areas	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
In Alaska overall (n=253)	8%	23%	31%	10%	4%	25%
In the range most important to you (n=251)	10%	21%	31%	16%	6%	17%

**Question 19:** If you feel sheep hunter competition and crowding is a problem, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following causes of competition and crowding? (Analyzed responses that agreed or strongly agreed on question 18)

Reason	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
Fewer legal rams (n=94)	43%	45%	7%	1%	2%	2%
More resident hunters (n=93)	32%	36%	19%	7%	2%	4%
More nonresident hunters (n=93)	14%	37%	27%	10%	5%	8%
More professional guides (n=91)	31%	37%	20%	4%	2%	6%
More professional transporters/air taxis (n=91)	21%	40%	31%	1%	3%	4%
More Alaska residents with planes (n=92)	28%	35%	24%	2%	3%	8%
Decline in sheep distribution (n=87)	25%	40%	18%	7%	1%	8%
Drawing areas displacing hunters to general harvest areas (n=92)	23%	32%	27%	5%	3%	10%
Decline in hunter ethics (n=91)	12%	34%	32%	9%	9%	4%
Other (describe):						

**Question 20:** How tolerable or intolerable are the following levels of crowding while sheep hunting?

Levels of crowding	Very tolerable	Somewhat tolerable	Neither	Somewhat intolerable	Very intolerable
I see a small plane in the air passing over the area I'm hunting (n=254)	27%	37%	16%	15%	5%
I see a small plane on the ground in the area I'm hunting (n=251)	3%	24%	19%	34%	20%
I see a small plane searching for sheep in the area I'm hunting (n=253)	4%	11%	13%	34%	38%
I see another hunter while hunting (n=252)	4%	21%	23%	34%	17%
I see another hunter camp while hunting (n=250)	4%	19%	21%	35%	20%
I see multiple hunters and camps while hunting (n=251)	3%	4%	13%	24%	57%
I have to change where I hunt to avoid other hunters (n=250)	2%	6%	19%	25%	48%
Other hunters interrupt my stalk on a sheep (n=252)	2%	2%	11%	10%	75%
I can't get away from other hunters (n=252)	3%	2%	15%	14%	66%
Other (describe):					

**Question 21:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that there is too much harvest pressure on the sheep population in the following areas?

Areas	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
In Alaska overall (n=255)	6%	24%	34%	9%	2%	25%
In the range most important to you (n=250)	10%	23%	34%	12%	3%	19%

**Question 22:** Since you started hunting sheep in Alaska, to what extent do you feel that the sheep population has increased or decreased in following areas?

Areas	Significant increase	Slight increase	Neither	Slight decrease	Significant decrease	Unsure
In Alaska overall (n=255)	0%	5%	36%	14%	5%	40%
In the range most important to you (n=249)	0%	6%	33%	17%	9%	35%

**Question 23:** How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following current sheep management and regulation characteristics?

Characteristic	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Sheep population size (n=245)	9%	44%	29%	17%	2%
Full-curl regulation (n=253)	47%	32%	9%	9%	2%
Length of sheep hunting season (Aug. 10 – Sep. 20) (n=252)	43%	37%	14%	6%	1%
Number of other hunters seen while sheep hunting (n=247)	17%	27%	32%	20%	3%
Number of drawing hunts (n=247)	9%	23%	52%	15%	2%
Number of general harvest hunts (n=248)	11%	27%	46%	13%	4%
Number of registration/subsistence hunts (n=246)	5%	10%	56%	20%	9%
Regulation of professional guides (n=247)	18%	32%	30%	11%	9%
Regulation of professional transporters (n=248)	17%	31%	38%	9%	4%
Level of enforcement in the field (n=247)	21%	28%	43%	5%	3%
Horn sealing requirements (n=249)	33%	34%	25%	6%	1%
Allocation of tags to nonresident hunters (n=247)	18%	32%	32%	10%	9%
Allocation of tags to nonresident second-degree of kindred (see question 15 for definition) hunters (n=245)	12%	19%	53%	9%	8%
Statute requiring nonresidents to hire professional guides (n=249)	21%	29%	16%	14%	20%
Other: Describe					

**Question 24:** To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following changes in timing of the sheep hunting season?

Timing of hunt	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Start a week sooner (n=250)	12%	14%	55%	14%	6%
Start a week sooner for residents only (n=249)	2%	5%	30%	18%	45%
Start a week later (n=245)	2%	6%	60%	16%	16%
Start a week later for non-residents only (n=246)	2%	4%	30%	15%	50%
Lengthen overall season (n=246)	11%	17%	49%	13%	9%
Shorten overall season (n=237)	3%	4%	50%	22%	21%
Divide into early and late seasons (Example: Aug. 10-25 & Aug. 26-Sept. 20) (n=245)	5%	20%	49%	13%	14%
Seasons should stay the same (n=247)	29%	28%	37%	4%	2%
Other: Describe					

**Question 25:** Would you like to see more or less law enforcement in the field during the sheep hunting season? (n=254)

- |   |  |                                    |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| <input type="radio"/> Much more 4%      | <input type="radio"/> Same 58%         | <input type="radio"/> Much less 3% |
| <input type="radio"/> Slightly more 18% | <input type="radio"/> Slightly less 6% | <input type="radio"/> Unsure 11%   |

**Question 26:** Currently, hunters are not allowed to hunt sheep the same day airborne, and it is against the law to hunt until 3:00 a.m. the following day after you have flown. An aircraft can be used during the hunting season to spot sheep. To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following changes?

Change in regulation	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Remove same day airborne regulation (n=251)	5%	8%	8%	14%	66%
Do not allow hunting until 12 hours after day flown (n=249)	18%	25%	18%	19%	21%
Do not allow hunting until 24 hours after day flown (n=250)	14%	10%	21%	18%	37%
Do not allow hunters to spot sheep with an aircraft during the hunting season (n=247)	25%	19%	20%	19%	18%
Regulation should stay the same (n=248)	35%	21%	31%	10%	4%

**Question 27:** To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following increases in special Alaska sheep hunts?

Type of hunt	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
More archery only hunts (n=250)	13%	20%	44%	11%	12%
More youth only hunts (n=250)	8%	18%	47%	14%	13%
More muzzleloader only hunts (n=250)	4%	16%	51%	13%	16%
More non-motorized hunts (n=246)	19%	22%	44%	7%	7%
More subsistence hunts (n=250)	0%	1%	42%	18%	38%
More trophy (old and large rams) management hunts (n=250)	27%	37%	29%	4%	4%
Sheep hunts should stay the same (n=246)	17%	31%	44%	6%	2%

**Question 28: In drawing areas only,** to what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following types of sheep hunts?

Type of hunt	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Any sheep (n=245)	2%	8%	12%	22%	56%
Any ram (n=248)	7%	8%	11%	18%	56%
3/4 curl or bigger (n=248)	9%	21%	16%	16%	38%
Full curl or bigger (n=249)	58%	25%	11%	4%	2%
Trophy (large and old full-curl rams) (n=244)	50%	24%	18%	5%	3%

**Question 29:** How important or unimportant are the following factors to your sheep hunting satisfaction in Alaska?

Factor	Very important	Somewhat important	Neither	Somewhat unimportant	Very unimportant
Opportunity to hunt sheep every year (n=251)	34%	33%	17%	10%	6%
Opportunity for walk-in hunts in non-motorized areas (n=253)	32%	35%	21%	8%	3%
Seclusion from other hunters (n=253)	57%	37%	5%	0%	1%
Seclusion from plane traffic (n=251)	28%	49%	16%	6%	1%
Level of crowding and competition (n=251)	57%	35%	7%	1%	0%
Number of sheep seen (n=254)	57%	39%	3%	1%	0%
Number of legal rams seen (n=254)	61%	35%	2%	1%	1%
Opportunity to harvest a sheep (any ram) (n=252)	16%	25%	21%	21%	17%
Opportunity to harvest a full-curl ram (n=251)	61%	34%	4%	1%	0%
Opportunity to harvest a very large (>40 inch) ram (n=248)	47%	36%	13%	5%	0%
Harvest success (n=254)	27%	57%	12%	4%	0%
Size of ram harvested (n=253)	29%	57%	11%	3%	1%
Cost of a sheep hunt (n=253)	41%	42%	11%	5%	1%
Opportunity to hire professional transporters or guides (n=252)	32%	43%	14%	4%	7%
Physical difficulty of the hunt (ex: walking distance) (n=250)	20%	47%	17%	10%	6%
Weather (n=254)	24%	37%	28%	8%	3%

**Question 30:** Please rank the **following sources of information** based on how much or little they influence your opinion of sheep hunting opportunities in Alaska? (1 = most influence, 4 = least influence)

Source	1	2	3	4
Agency (ADF&G, USFWS) data and publications (n=247)	21%	21%	22%	36%
My own sheep hunting experience (n=247)	50%	21%	15%	14%
Conversations with fellow hunters (includes internet forums) (n=247)	25%	39%	21%	15%
Sheep hunting/conservation organizations (Example: WSF, FNAWS, SCI, GSCO) (n=246)	16%	21%	29%	34%
Other (describe):				

**Question 31:** How frequently do you apply for a sheep drawing tag? (n=255)

- Every year 22%
  Once every 6-9 years 4%
- Most years (2 out of every 3 years) 9%
  Once every 10 or more years 6%
- Once every 3-5 years 15%
  I've never applied for a drawing tag 45%

**Question 32:** If you **do NOT** draw a permit, how likely or unlikely are you to go sheep hunting? (n=253)

- Very likely 12%
  Somewhat likely 23%
  Neither 23%
  Somewhat unlikely 15%
  Very unlikely 28%

**Question 33:** To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following changes to reduce sheep hunting pressure, competition, and crowding?

Change	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
More drawing hunts (n=247)	15%	45%	24%	12%	3%
Reduce hunting season length (n=241)	4%	12%	35%	34%	15%
Reduce tag allocation to nonresidents hunting with second-degree of kindred (see question 15 for definition) Alaska residents (n=248)	11%	19%	21%	18%	31%
Reduce tag allocation to nonresidents hunting with professional guides (n=245)	5%	6%	18%	24%	47%
Limit hunters to 1 sheep tag every 3 years (n=247)	23%	31%	13%	18%	15%
After harvesting a sheep, hunters must wait 3 years to hunt sheep again (n=248)	31%	34%	11%	14%	10%
Reduce motorized access (n=246)	29%	33%	24%	10%	5%
Prohibit spotting sheep from aircraft during hunting season (n=246)	28%	24%	23%	16%	9%
Increase resident tag fees (n=247)	24%	23%	33%	10%	10%
Increase nonresident tag fees (n=245)	7%	14%	28%	23%	29%
No changes should be made (n=230)	4%	17%	56%	14%	9%
Other (describe):					

**Question 34:** Do you feel that Alaska residents should pay for a sheep tag (currently free with license)? (n=252)

- Yes 92%
  No (skip to question 37) 8%

**Question 35:** How much should an Alaska resident pay for a sheep tag? (n=227)

- \$10
  \$100 (Median value of responses)
- \$25
  Different amount \$\_\_\_\_\_
- \$50
- \$75

**Question 36: (Alaska Resident only)** How much would you be willing to pay for a sheep tag if allocation of nonresident sheep tags were reduced? **NA**

- \$10                                       \$75  
 \$25                                       \$100  
 \$50                                       Different amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 37:** Do you feel that the price of a nonresident sheep tag should change (current price is \$425)? (n=256)

- Yes **32%**  
 No (**skip to question 39**) **68%**

**Question 38:** How much should a nonresident pay for a sheep tag? (n=80)

- Less than \$425 (n=33)**                                       \$1000  
 \$500                                       \$1250  
 **\$750 (Median value of response >\$425 [n=47])**                                       Different amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 39:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that the average Alaska sheep hunter is sufficiently educated on sheep hunting issues in Alaska? (n=255)

- Strongly agree **4%**                       Somewhat agree **37%**                       Neither **24%**                       Somewhat disagree **24%**                       Strongly disagree **5%**                       Unsure **6%**

**Question 40:** Which of the following categories best describes your approximate household income in 2013? (n=246)

- Less than \$25,000 **0%**                                       \$100,001 - \$125,000 **13%**  
 \$25,001 - \$50,000 **6%**                                       \$125,001 - \$150,000 **9%**  
 \$50,001 - \$75,000 **11%**                                       \$150,001 - \$175,000 **8%**  
 \$75,001 - \$100,000 **20%**                                       More than \$175,000 **33%**

**Question 41:** Which of the following categories best describes the highest level of education that you have received? (n=254)

- Some high school **2%**                                       Graduated from college **29%**  
 Graduated from high school **14%**                                       Some graduate school **5%**  
 Some college **21%**                                       Completed graduate school **30%**

**Question 42:** If you are an Alaska resident, how long have you been a resident? (please write response) **NA** years

**Question 43:** What is your age? (n=252) (please write response) **Mean = 51 (SD=10)** years old

**Question 44:** What is your gender? (n=253)

- Male **99%**                       Female **1%**

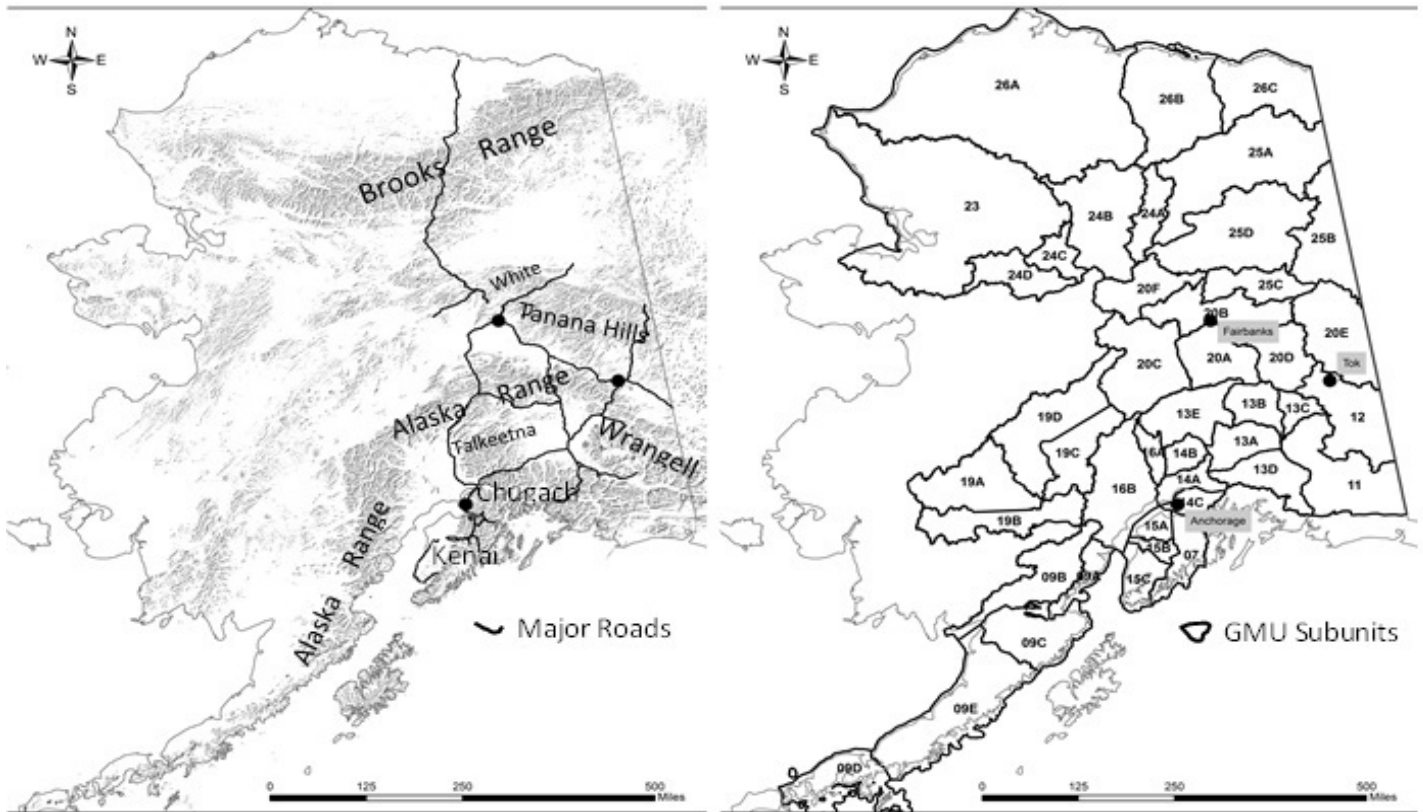
**Questions?** Please feel free to contact the project leader:

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**Appendix D.** Responses (red font) from commercial operators providing services to sheep hunters to all questions asked on the Alaska Sheep Commercial Services Survey. This survey (conducted summer 2014) addressed specific information needs identified by the Alaska Board of Game (BOG). Information needs were related to proposals (Appendix A) submitted to the BOG in recent years expressing concern in a decline in the quality of sheep hunting in Alaska because of unacceptable levels of crowding, competition, and conflict among interest groups. Interest groups included resident sheep hunters, nonresident sheep hunters, and commercial operators (hunting guides, transporters, and air taxis) providing services to sheep hunters. The Commercial Services questionnaire collected information on characteristics and attitudes of commercial operators to answer the following questions: 1) Is there a sheep hunter problem? 2) Why is there a sheep hunter problem? and 3) How might sheep hunting be improved?



Map 1. Major mountain ranges of Alaska containing sheep hunts. Map 2. Alaska Department of Fish & Game’s Game Management Unit (GMU) Subunits containing sheep hunts.

**Question 1:** Have you provided commercial services (guiding, transporting, air taxi) to Alaska sheep hunters?

- Yes (n=69)
- No (Please stop here and return the survey) (n=1)

**Question 2:** Which commercial services have you provided to Alaska sheep hunters (fill in all that apply)? (n=69)

Commercial service	During the last 5 years (2009-2013)	During your lifetime (before 2009)
Guiding	78%	90%
Transporting	10%	12%
Air Taxi	10%	16%

**Question 3:** Which mountain ranges (please see maps 1 & 2) in Alaska have you provided commercial services to sheep hunters in (fill in all that apply)? (n=69)

Mountain range (game management unit)	During the last 5 years (2009-2013)	During your lifetime (before 2009)
Alaska Range (GMU 9, 16, 17, 19, 20A, 20C)	36%	57%
Brooks Range (GMU 23, 24, 25A, 25B, 25D, 26)	23%	42%
Chugach Mountains (GMU 13D, 14A, 14C)	15%	33%
Kenai Mountains (GMU 7, 15)	1%	4%
Talkeetna Mountains (GMU 13A, 13E, 14A, 14B)	16%	28%
Tanana Hills (GMU 20B, 20D, 20E)	6%	9%
White Mountains (GMU 20B, 20F, 25C)	1%	4%
Wrangell Mountains (GMU 11, 12)	15%	29%

**Question 4:** Which mountain range (please see maps 1 & 2) in Alaska is most important to your commercial services that involve sheep hunters (please fill in one)?

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Alaska Range 40%      | <input type="radio"/> Kenai Mountains 0%      | <input type="radio"/> White Mountains 0%     |
| <input type="radio"/> Brooks Range 25%      | <input type="radio"/> Talkeetna Mountains 12% | <input type="radio"/> Wrangell Mountains 13% |
| <input type="radio"/> Chugach Mountains 10% | <input type="radio"/> Tanana Hills 0%         | <input type="radio"/> Unsure 0%              |

**Question 5:** What year did you start providing commercial services to Alaska sheep hunters? (please write response YYYY) \_mean=1991 (SD=13)\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 6:** How many years have you provided commercial services to Alaska sheep hunters? (please write response) \_mean=22 (SD=12)\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 7:** Which mode of transportation do you use the most to get your clients to their sheep hunting area (please fill in one)? (n=67)

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Airplane 90%                                    | <input type="radio"/> Pack animal (horse, mule, alpaca) 9% |
| <input type="radio"/> ATV (4-wheeler, track vehicle, side-by-side) 1% | <input type="radio"/> Passenger vehicle (car, truck) 0%    |
| <input type="radio"/> Snow machine 0%                                 | <input type="radio"/> Other: _____                         |
| <input type="radio"/> Boat (includes raft and canoe) 0%               |  |

**Question 8:** Which type of sheep hunter(s) have you provided services to (fill in all that apply)? (n=69)

Type of hunter	During the last 5 years (2009-2013)	During your lifetime (before 2009)
Drawing	28%	36%
General harvest	70%	83%
Registration/Subsistence	3%	6%
Alaska resident	36%	44%
Nonresident	77%	90%

**Question 9:** Which type of sheep hunter(s) have you provided services to the MOST (please fill in one)? (n=69)

- Drawing 10%
- General harvest 90%
- Registration/Subsistence 0%

**Question 10:** Which type of sheep hunter(s) have you provided services to the MOST (please fill in one)? (n=69)

- Alaska resident 7%
- Nonresident 93%

**Question 11:** Do you feel that limits should be placed on the percentage of sheep tags allocated to nonresidents? (n=66)

- Yes 39% If yes, what percentage of total allocation should nonresidents receive? (write response) median=20% (SD=15.7)
- No 61%

**Question 12:** Compared to other types of hunters in Alaska, how important are sheep hunters to your business?

Hunters	Less important than sheep hunting	Equally important to sheep hunting	More important than sheep hunting
Black bear hunters (n=65)	91%	8%	1%
Brown/Grizzly bear hunters (n=68)	29%	59%	12%
Bison hunters (n=60)	95%	3%	2%
Caribou hunters (n=63)	81%	14%	5%
Deer hunters (n=61)	97%	3%	0%
Elk hunters (n=61)	98%	2%	0%
Moose hunters (n=65)	42%	46%	12%
Mountain goat hunters (n=62)	74%	26%	0%
Muskox hunters (n=60)	97%	2%	2%
Small game (grouse, ptarmigan, waterfowl) hunters (n=59)	98%	2%	0%

**Question 13:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that sheep hunter crowding is a problem in the following areas?

Areas	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
In Alaska overall (n=68)	28%	44%	10%	6%	4%	7%
In the range most important to you (n=64)	34%	34%	14%	6%	11%	0%

**Question 14:** If you feel sheep hunter competition and crowding is a problem, to what extent do you agree or disagree with the following causes of competition and crowding?

Reason	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	Neither	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
Fewer legal rams (n=65)	40%	37%	12%	8%	3%	0%
More resident hunters (n=68)	40%	32%	21%	1%	3%	3%
More nonresident hunters (n=64)	14%	39%	19%	11%	14%	3%
More professional guides (n=66)	46%	32%	12%	3%	4%	3%
More professional transporters/air taxis (n=68)	68%	19%	9%	0%	3%	1%
More Alaska residents with planes (n=66)	42%	30%	17%	3%	5%	3%
Decline in sheep distribution (n=62)	37%	34%	16%	8%	2%	3%
Drawing areas displacing hunters to general harvest areas (n=62)	34%	37%	18%	5%	3%	3%
Decline in hunter ethics (n=65)	34%	20%	29%	9%	5%	3%
Other (describe):						

**Question 15:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that there is too much harvest pressure on the sheep population in the following areas?

Areas	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Unsure
In Alaska overall (n=68)	29%	44%	12%	9%	2%	4%
In the range most important to you (n=66)	36%	35%	14%	11%	3%	2%

**Question 16:** Since you started providing services to sheep hunters in Alaska, to what extent do you feel that the sheep population has increased or decreased in following areas?

Areas	Significant increase	Slight increase	Neither	Slight decrease	Significant decrease	Unsure
In Alaska overall (n=64)	2%	2%	14%	30%	38%	16%
In the range most important to you (n=67)	2%	9%	22%	21%	46%	0%

**Question 17:** How tolerable or intolerable are the following levels of crowding while providing services to sheep hunters?

Levels of crowding	Very tolerable	Somewhat tolerable	Neither	Somewhat intolerable	Very intolerable
I see a small plane in the air passing over the area my clients are hunting (n=69)	41%	33%	7%	7%	12%
I see a plane on the ground in the area my clients are hunting (n=68)	7%	35%	12%	24%	22%
I see a plane searching for sheep in the area my clients are hunting (n=67)	5%	12%	8%	27%	49%
I see another hunter in the area my clients are hunting (n=68)	3%	21%	24%	32%	21%
I see other commercial operators in the area my clients are hunting (n=67)	1%	13%	15%	36%	34%
I see another hunter camp in the area my clients are hunting (n=68)	1%	19%	15%	41%	24%
I see multiple hunters and camps in the area my clients are hunting (n=68)	1%	4%	7%	24%	63%
I have to change where I take my clients to avoid other hunters (n=67)	1%	10%	16%	33%	39%
Other hunters interrupt my clients stalk on a sheep (n=67)	3%	0%	6%	10%	81%
I can't get away from other hunters (n=67)	5%	1%	6%	13%	75%
Other (describe):					

**Question 18:** How satisfied or dissatisfied are you with the following current sheep management and regulation characteristics?

Characteristic	Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Neither	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Sheep population size (n=68)	3%	34%	9%	28%	27%
Full-curl regulation (n=69)	52%	25%	3%	9%	12%
Length of sheep hunting season (Aug. 10 – Sep. 20) (n=68)	57%	22%	6%	13%	2%
Number of other hunters seen while sheep hunting (n=68)	1%	28%	27%	25%	19%
Number of drawing hunts (n=67)	9%	22%	39%	21%	9%
Number of general harvest hunts (n=68)	18%	35%	31%	9%	7%
Number of registration/subsistence hunts (n=67)	9%	27%	40%	10%	13%
Regulation of professional guides (n=68)	19%	31%	4%	22%	24%
Regulation of professional transporters (n=69)	3%	9%	7%	22%	59%
Level of enforcement in the field (n=69)	12%	25%	30%	25%	9%
Horn sealing requirements (n=69)	33%	22%	10%	16%	19%
Allocation of tags to nonresident hunters (n=69)	22%	20%	28%	19%	12%
Allocation of tags to nonresident second-degree of kindred hunters (n=69)	4%	13%	23%	22%	38%
Statute requiring nonresidents to hire professional guides (n=69)	88%	6%	3%	1%	1%
Other: Describe					

**Question 19:** To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following changes in timing of the sheep hunting season?

Timing of hunt	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Start a week sooner (n=68)	9%	6%	10%	19%	56%
Start a week sooner for residents only (n=68)	6%	9%	4%	4%	77%
Start a week later (n=67)	5%	3%	19%	16%	57%
Start a week later for non-residents only (n=66)	6%	9%	12%	8%	65%
Lengthen overall season (n=66)	5%	5%	12%	12%	67%
Shorten overall season (n=67)	13%	12%	19%	18%	37%
Divide into early and late seasons (Example: Aug. 10-25 & Aug. 26-Sept. 20) (n=66)	5%	12%	24%	12%	47%
Seasons should stay the same (n=69)	44%	26%	13%	6%	12%
Other: Describe					

**Question 20:** Would you like to see more or less law enforcement in the field during the sheep hunting season? (n=69)

- Much more 16%     
 Slightly more 29%     
 Same 44%     
 Slightly less 6%     
 Much less 1%     
 Unsure 4%

**Question 21:** Currently, hunters are not allowed to hunt sheep the same day airborne, and it is against the law to hunt until 3:00 a.m. the following day after you have flown. No formal law prohibits an aircraft from being used during the hunting season to spot sheep. To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following changes?

Change in regulation	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Remove same day airborne regulation (n=63)	3%	0%	1%	4%	91%
Do not allow hunting until 12 hours after day flown (n=66)	21%	20%	24%	14%	21%
Do not allow hunting until 24 hours after day flown (n=66)	23%	9%	17%	11%	41%
Do not allow aircrafts to be used to spot sheep during the hunting season (n=68)	40%	13%	12%	6%	29%
Regulation should stay the same (n=67)	37%	19%	18%	12%	13%
Other: Describe					

**Question 22:** To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following increases in special Alaska sheep hunts?

Type of hunt	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
More archery only hunts (n=69)	6%	12%	26%	10%	46%
More youth only hunts (n=69)	7%	23%	30%	9%	30%
More muzzleloader only hunts (n=69)	1%	10%	32%	7%	49%
More non-motorized hunts (n=69)	25%	26%	25%	10%	14%
More subsistence hunts (n=69)	0%	4%	20%	12%	64%
More trophy (old and large rams) management hunts (n=68)	27%	34%	28%	7%	4%
Sheep hunts should stay the same (n=67)	27%	31%	21%	12%	9%
Other: Describe					

**Question 23:** Please rank the following sources of information based on how much or little they influence your opinion of sheep hunting opportunities in Alaska? (1 = most influence, 5 = least influence) (n=54)

Source	1	2	3	4	5
Agency (ADF&G, USFWS) data and publications	11%	26%	28%	18%	17%
My own experience	83%	7%	4%	2%	4%
Conversations with sheep hunters (includes internet forums)	2%	17%	31%	30%	20%
Conversations with other guides, transporters, or air taxis	2%	39%	26%	24%	9%
Sheep hunting/conservation organizations (Example: WSF, FNAWS, SCI, GSCO)	2%	11%	11%	26%	50%

**Question 24:** How important or unimportant are the **following factors** to your client's sheep hunting satisfaction in Alaska?

Factor	Very important	Somewhat important	Neither	Somewhat unimportant	Very unimportant
Opportunity to hunt sheep every year (n=69)	15%	26%	13%	28%	19%
Opportunity for walk-in hunts in non-motorized areas (n=67)	16%	27%	25%	18%	13%
Seclusion from other hunters (n=69)	57%	36%	6%	1%	0%
Seclusion from plane traffic (n=69)	36%	36%	19%	6%	3%
Level of crowding and competition (n=69)	65%	26%	6%	3%	0%
Number of sheep seen (n=68)	47%	44%	4%	4%	0%
Number of legal rams seen (n=68)	65%	32%	1%	1%	0%
Opportunity to harvest a sheep (any ram) (n=67)	24%	24%	9%	8%	36%
Opportunity to harvest a full-curl ram (n=69)	78%	19%	1%	1%	0%
Opportunity to harvest a very large (>40 inch) ram (n=68)	27%	47%	18%	6%	3%
Harvest success (n=69)	59%	32%	6%	3%	0%
Size of ram harvested (n=68)	18%	66%	15%	1%	0%
Cost of a sheep hunt (n=68)	28%	47%	12%	9%	4%
Opportunity to hire professional transporters or guides (n=69)	61%	33%	1%	3%	1%
Physical difficulty of the hunt (ex: distance you have to walk) (n=69)	23%	46%	22%	7%	1%
Weather (n=69)	20%	39%	29%	9%	3%
Other (describe):					

**Question 25:** To what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following changes to reduce sheep hunting pressure, competition, and crowding?

Change	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
More drawing hunts (n=69)	13%	26%	7%	22%	32%
Reduce hunting season length (n=69)	12%	13%	17%	33%	25%
Reduce tag allocation to nonresidents hunting with second-degree of kindred Alaska residents (n=69)	41%	22%	12%	12%	15%
Reduce tag allocation to nonresidents hunting with professional guides (n=69)	10%	16%	7%	15%	52%
Limit hunters to 1 sheep tag every 3 years (n=68)	35%	25%	10%	6%	24%
After harvesting a sheep, hunters must wait 3 years to hunt sheep again (n=68)	49%	25%	7%	4%	15%
Reduce motorized access (n=69)	28%	25%	18%	15%	15%
Prohibit spotting sheep from aircraft during hunting season (n=68)	41%	18%	7%	7%	27%
Increase resident tag fees (n=69)	55%	19%	10%	7%	9%
Increase nonresident tag fees (n=68)	27%	35%	15%	9%	15%
No changes should be made (n=57)	9%	5%	37%	19%	30%
Other (describe):					

**Question 26: In drawing areas only,** to what extent do you approve or disapprove of the following types of sheep hunts?

Type of hunt	Strongly approve	Somewhat approve	Neither	Somewhat disapprove	Strongly disapprove
Any sheep (n=67)	5%	3%	6%	10%	76%
Any ram (n=68)	9%	9%	4%	15%	63%
3/4 curl or bigger (n=64)	5%	11%	20%	13%	52%
Full curl or bigger (n=68)	69%	16%	13%	2%	0%
Trophy (large and old full-curl rams) (n=65)	37%	26%	29%	3%	5%

**Question 27:** Do you feel that Alaska residents should pay for a sheep tag (currently free with license)? (n=69)

- Yes 87%  No (skip to question 29) 13%

**Question 28:** How much should an Alaska resident pay for a sheep tag? (n=59)

- \$10  \$75  
 \$25  \$100 (Median value of responses)  
 \$50  Different amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 29:** Do you feel that the price of a nonresident sheep tag should change (current price is \$425)? (n=68)

- Yes 57%  No (skip to question 31) 43%

**Question 30:** How much should a nonresident pay for a sheep tag? (n=40)

- Less than \$425  \$1000  
 \$500 (Median value of responses)  \$1250  
 \$750  Different amount \$\_\_\_\_\_

**Question 31:** To what extent do you agree or disagree that the average Alaska sheep hunter is sufficiently educated on sheep hunting issues in Alaska? (n=68)

- Strongly agree 1%  Somewhat agree 6%  Neither 13%  Somewhat disagree 40%  Strongly disagree 40%

**Question 32:** Which of the following categories best describes your approximate household income in 2013? (n=62)

- |   |  |   |  |
|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="radio"/> Less than \$25,000 7%   | <input type="radio"/> \$50,001 - \$75,000 23%  | <input type="radio"/> \$100,001 - \$125,000 23% | <input type="radio"/> \$150,001 - \$175,000 3% |
| <input type="radio"/> \$25,001 - \$50,000 26% | <input type="radio"/> \$75,001 - \$100,000 11% | <input type="radio"/> \$125,001 - \$150,000 5%  | <input type="radio"/> More than \$175,000 3%   |

**Question 33:** Which of the following categories best describes the highest level of education that you have received?

- Some high school 3%  Some college 40%  Completed graduate school 9%  
 Graduated from high school 15%  Graduated from college 23%  
 Some graduate school 9%

**Question 34:** If you are an Alaska resident, how long have you been a resident? (n=62) (please write response) Mean = 39 (SD=11)years

**Question 35:** What is your age? (n=65) (please write response) Mean = 54 (SD=11)years

**Question 36:** What is your gender? (n=67)

- Male 97%  Female 3%

**Questions?** Please feel free to contact the project leader:

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**Appendix E.** Comparisons of top-3 responses (based on percentages) of resident sheep hunters, nonresident sheep hunters, and commercial operators (professional guides, transporters, and air taxis) providing services to sheep hunters to survey questions that directly addressed problems and solutions related to sheep hunter crowding and competition in Alaska. Hunter responses were to questions on the 2014 Alaska Sheep Hunter Survey (Appendix B & C). Commercial operator responses were to questions on the 2014 Alaska Sheep Commercial Services Survey (Appendix D).

<b>Survey topic</b> <i>Italicized font indicates location of actual survey question and results</i>	<b>Resident Hunters Responses</b> <b>(n = 698)</b> <i>Appendix B</i>	<b>Nonresident Hunters Responses</b> <b>(n = 269)</b> <i>Appendix C</i>	<b>Commercial Operators Responses</b> <b>(n=69)</b> <i>Appendix D</i>
<b>Sheep hunter crowding is a problem<sup>1</sup></b> <i>Hunter – Appendices B &amp; C, Question 18</i> <i>Commercial Operators – Appendix D, Question 13</i>	Agreed or Strongly Agreed: 74%	Agreed or Strongly Agreed: 35%	Agreed or Strongly Agreed: 84%
<b>Causes of sheep hunter crowding<sup>2</sup></b> <i>Hunter – Appendices B &amp; C, Question 19</i> <i>Commercial Operators – Appendix D, Question 14</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fewer legal rams (83%)</li> <li>2. More nonresident hunters (83%)</li> <li>3. More guides (82%)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fewer legal rams (88%)</li> <li>2. More resident hunters (68%)</li> <li>3. More guides (68%)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. More transporters/air taxis (87%)<sup>7</sup></li> <li>2. More guides (78%)</li> <li>3. Fewer legal rams (77%)</li> </ol>
<b>Dissatisfaction with sheep management and regulation characteristics<sup>3</sup></b> <i>Hunter – Appendices B &amp; C, Question 23</i> <i>Commercial Operators – Appendix D, Question 18</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Allocation of permits to nonresidents (61%)</li> <li>2. Regulation of guides (56%)</li> <li>3. Number of other hunters seen while sheep hunting (44%)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Guide requirement for nonresidents (34%)</li> <li>2. Number of subsistence hunts (29%)</li> <li>3. Regulation of guides (20%)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regulation of transporters/air taxis (81%)<sup>7</sup></li> <li>2. Allocation of permits to nonresidents hunting with kin (61%)</li> <li>3. Sheep population size (53%)</li> </ol>
<b>Satisfaction with sheep management and regulation characteristics<sup>4</sup></b> <i>Hunters – Appendices B &amp; C, Question 23</i> <i>Commercial Operators – Appendix D, Question 18</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Length of season (76%)</li> <li>2. Guide requirement for nonresidents (75%)</li> <li>3. Full-curl regulation (62%)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Length of season (80%)</li> <li>2. Full-curl regulation (79%)</li> <li>3. Horn sealing requirement (67%)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Guide requirement for nonresidents (94%)</li> <li>2. Length of season (79%)</li> <li>3. Full-curl regulation (77%)</li> </ol>
<b>Approval of changes to reduce sheep hunting pressure, competition, and crowding<sup>5</sup></b> <i>Hunters – Appendices B &amp; C, Question 33</i> <i>Commercial Operators – Appendix D, Question 25</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce allocation of permits to guided nonresidents (77%)</li> <li>2. Increase nonresident tag fees (73%)</li> <li>3. Reduce allocation of permits to nonresidents hunting with kin (64%)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. After harvesting a sheep, hunters must wait 3yrs to hunt again (65%)</li> <li>2. Reduce motorized access (62%)</li> <li>3. More drawing hunts (60%)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase resident tag fees (74%)</li> <li>2. After harvesting a sheep, hunters must wait 3yrs to hunt again (74%)</li> <li>3. Reduce permit allocation to nonresidents hunting with kin (63%)</li> </ol>
<b>Disapproval of changes to reduce sheep hunting pressure, competition, and crowding<sup>6</sup></b> <i>Hunters – Appendices B &amp; C, Question 33</i> <i>Commercial Operators – Appendix D, Question 25</i>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce season length (66%)</li> <li>2. Limit hunters to one tag every 3yrs (61%)</li> <li>3. After harvesting a sheep, hunters must wait 3yrs to hunt again (56%)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce permit allocation to guided nonresidents (71%)</li> <li>2. Increase nonresident tag fees (52%)</li> <li>3. Reduce hunting season length (49%)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Reduce permit allocation to guided nonresidents (67%)</li> <li>2. Reduce hunting season length (58%)</li> <li>3. More drawing hunts (54%)</li> </ol>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percent of responses that agreed or strongly agreed<sup>1,2</sup>, were dissatisfied or strongly dissatisfied<sup>3</sup>, were satisfied or strongly satisfied<sup>4</sup>, that approved or strongly approved<sup>5</sup>, and that disapproved or strongly disapproved<sup>6</sup>.</li> <li>• <sup>7</sup>Transporters and air taxi operators were underrepresented in the survey. Of a total of 69 responses from commercial operators, there were eight transporters and 11 air taxi services.</li> <li>• Note: “Top 3” responses are statistically arbitrary and were compiled to provide a general idea of rankings. Other responses that ranked lower may be statistically similar after accounting for sampling margin of error (at 95% confidence level: resident hunters (±3.5%), nonresident hunters (±5.5%), commercial operators (±8%))</li> </ul>			