

The following staff comments were prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game for use at the Alaska Board of Game meeting, March 18 - 28, 2016 in Fairbanks, Alaska, and are prepared to assist the public and board. The stated staff comments should be considered preliminary and subject to change, if or when new information becomes available. Final department positions will be formulated after review of written and oral testimony presented to the board.

PROPOSAL 21 - 5 AAC 92.085, Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Modify the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting.

PROPOSED BY: Daniel Jirak

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal modifies the restrictions on using aircraft for sheep hunting by allowing aircraft to be used to locate sheep from August 9–September 20 and only prohibiting the use of aircraft to assess the legal status and trophy value of Dall sheep rams.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations regarding the use of aircraft for Dall sheep hunting were passed in March 2015 by the Board of Game.

From August 10–September 20, aircraft may only be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal is adopted, aircraft could be used to locate sheep, provided there was no attempt to assess the rams to determine trophy value or legal size, from August 9–September 20.

BACKGROUND: Over the last few years there has been increasing pressure on the board to make changes to sheep regulations for various reasons. During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use. The regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camps, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season. The board received seven proposals that address the new regulation for the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting. Proposals 21 and 22 modify the current regulation regarding the use of aircraft for sheep hunting, Proposals 23–26 repeal the new regulation entirely, and Proposal 70 expands the regulation to apply to all big game.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on allowing this type of aircraft use during sheep hunts because it does not create or address a biological concern.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

PROPOSAL 22 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Modify the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Professional Hunters Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal modifies the restriction on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting by deleting the current regulatory language and replacing it with regulatory language used by the Big Game Commercial Services board. It prohibits the use of aircraft in any manner to spot Dall sheep for the purpose of taking a specific sheep.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations regarding the use of aircraft for Dall sheep hunting were passed in March 2015 by the Board of Game.

From August 10–September 20, aircraft may only be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The proposal would prohibit the use of aircraft in any manner to spot a Dall sheep for the purpose of harvesting the animal.

BACKGROUND: Over the last few years there has been increasing pressure on the board to make changes to sheep regulations for various reasons. During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use. The regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camps, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season. The board received seven proposals that address the new regulation for the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting. Proposals 21 and 22 modify the current regulation regarding the use of aircraft for sheep hunting, Proposals 23–26 repeal the new regulation entirely, and Proposal 70 expands the regulation to apply to all big game.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on allowing this type of aircraft use during sheep hunts because it does not create or address a biological concern.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

PROPOSAL 23 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting.

PROPOSED BY: Mat Valley Fish and Game Advisory Committee

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would repeal the regulation that restricts certain uses of aircraft during the sheep hunting season.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations regarding the use of aircraft for Dall sheep hunting were passed in March 2015 by the Board of Game.

From August 10–September 20, aircraft may only be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Hunters would be able to use aircraft to locate and evaluate Dall sheep rams during the sheep hunting season.

BACKGROUND: Over the last few years there has been increasing pressure on the board to make changes to sheep regulations for various reasons. During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use. The regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camps, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season. The board received seven proposals that address the new regulation for the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting. Proposals 21 and 22 modify the current regulation regarding the use of aircraft for sheep hunting, Proposals 23–26 repeal the new regulation entirely, and Proposal 70 expands the regulation to apply to all big game..

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on allowing this type of aircraft use during sheep hunts because it does not create or address a biological concern.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

PROPOSAL 24 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting.

PROPOSED BY: Kevin Asher and Adam St. Onge

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would repeal the regulation that restricts certain uses of aircraft during the sheep hunting season.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations regarding the use of aircraft for Dall sheep hunting were passed in March 2015 by the Board of Game.

From August 10–September 20, aircraft may only be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Hunters would be able to use aircraft to locate and evaluate Dall sheep rams during the sheep hunting season.

BACKGROUND: Over the last few years there has been increasing pressure on the board to make changes to sheep regulations for various reasons. During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use. The regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camps, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season. The board received seven proposals that address the new regulation for the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting. Proposals 21 and 22 modify the current regulation regarding the use of aircraft for sheep hunting, Proposals 23–26 repeal the new regulation entirely, and Proposal 70 expands the regulation to apply to all big game.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on allowing this type of aircraft use during sheep hunts because it does not create or address a biological concern.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

PROPOSAL 25 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting.

PROPOSED BY: John Frost

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would repeal the regulation that restricts certain uses of aircraft during the sheep hunting season.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations regarding the use of aircraft for Dall sheep hunting were passed in March 2015 by the Board of Game.

From August 10 to September 20, aircraft may only be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. A person

may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Hunters would be able to use aircraft to locate and evaluate Dall sheep rams during the sheep hunting season, which was allowed prior to the 2015 sheep hunting season.

BACKGROUND: Over the last few years there has been increasing pressure on the board to make changes to sheep regulations for various reasons. During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use. The regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camps, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season. The board received seven proposals that address the new regulation for the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting. Proposals 21 and 22 modify the current regulation regarding the use of aircraft for sheep hunting, Proposals 23–26 repeal the new regulation entirely, and Proposal 70 expands the regulation to apply to all big game.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on allowing this type of aircraft use during sheep hunts because it does not create or address a biological concern.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

PROPOSAL 26 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Repeal the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting.

PROPOSED BY: Wayne Kubat

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would repeal the regulation that restricts certain uses of aircraft during the sheep hunting season.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulations regarding the use of aircraft for Dall sheep hunting were passed in March 2015 by the Board of Game.

From August 10 to September 20, aircraft may only be used by and for sheep hunters to place and remove hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage harvested sheep. A person may not use or employ an aircraft to locate sheep or direct hunters to sheep during the open sheep hunting season.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Hunters would be able to use aircraft to locate and evaluate Dall sheep rams during the sheep hunting season, which was allowed prior to the 2015 sheep hunting season.

BACKGROUND: Over the last few years there has been increasing pressure on the board to make changes to sheep regulations for various reasons. During the 2015 board cycle, the board adopted a proposal to restrict aircraft use. The regulation allows for hunters to use an aircraft to establish and maintain sheep hunting camps, but prohibits the use of aircraft to spot or locate sheep during the hunting season. The board received seven proposals that address the new regulation for the 2016 Statewide Board of Game meeting. Proposals 21 and 22 modify the current regulation regarding the use of aircraft for sheep hunting, Proposals 23–26 repeal the new regulation entirely, and Proposal 70 expands the regulation to apply to all big game.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on allowing this type of aircraft use during sheep hunts because it does not create or address a biological concern.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs for the department.

PROPOSAL 27 - 5 AAC 92.990(30). Definitions. Amend the definition of legal Dall sheep ram.

PROPOSED BY: Atlin Daugherty

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Change the definition of legal Dall sheep ram from: full-curl or eight years old or both horns broken at the tip to: full-curl or **nine years old** or both horns broken at the tip.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Definition of “full-curl horn” of a male (ram) Dall sheep means:

- 1) the tip of at least one horn has grown through 360 degrees of a circle viewed from the side, or
- 2) both horn tips are broken, or
- 3) the sheep is at least eight years of age as determined by horn growth annuli.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Fewer rams that are not full-curl or broken would be legal, and it would become more difficult for hunters to determine legality of rams at a distance based on age because horn growth between annuli is progressively smaller.

BACKGROUND: The “full-curl horn” regulation has been in place in most of the state since 1989. The bag limit of “one ram with full-curl horn or larger” is the standard bag limit for all of

the state's general season sheep hunts. The definition also includes rams that are 8 years of age or older and rams with both horn tips broken.

The full-curl regulation has allowed for unlimited annual participation during general harvest hunting seasons in most sheep hunting areas of the state with no negative effect on lamb production or recruitment. The main concern expressed by the public has to do with the evaluation and determination of the legality of rams under the current definition. To achieve greater consistency in evaluating full-curl, the department has started a review process with the goal of recommending specific techniques and guidelines for determining the legality of rams under the full-curl horn definition. This process was used by staff across the state this last fall with the results of these efforts to be presented on at the board during the March 2016 Statewide meeting.

Some sheep hunts have bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it does not create or address a biological concern for sheep populations. The department can manage sheep harvest under either an 8-years of age or 9-years of age minimum requirement if the horns are not full-curl or broken.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.



PROPOSAL 28 - 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to bag limit; and 92.990(a)(30). Definitions. Modify seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep statewide. Provide additional bag limit definitions for male (ram) Dall sheep.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Untiet and Cary Bloomquist

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Amend bag limit definitions of full-curl to include “full-curl (-)” and “full-curl (+)”. “Full-curl (-)” would include rams that are legal under the current definition of full-curl. “Full-curl (+)” would include rams that have a horn length of at least 38 inches or are at least 10 years of age

The amended full-curl bag limit would allow for the following:

Only one “Full Curl (-)” (Full Curl Minus) ram may be taken every four regulatory years by resident hunters; one every ten years by nonresident hunters;

One “Full Curl (+)” (Full Curl Plus) ram may be taken every regulatory year.

If a second “Full Curl (-)” ram is taken in a four year period, the hunter may not hunt sheep for the next five years anywhere in the state.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? Definition of “full-curl horn” of a male (ram) Dall sheep means:

- 1) the tip of at least one horn has grown through 360 degrees of a circle viewed from the side, or
- 2) both horn tips are broken, or
- 3) the sheep is at least eight years of age as determined by horn growth annuli.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would reduce the number of hunters in the field due to the more restrictive bag limit; however, the number of trophy rams available for harvest is not expected to increase significantly.

BACKGROUND: The full-curl bag limit has allowed unlimited annual participation during general season sheep hunts with no negative effect on lamb production or recruitment. Attempts to increase the number of 38 inch rams available for harvest by limiting hunting opportunity have had mixed result. One possible reason for this is that these management strategies attempt to increase the number of older rams in the population; rams that are approaching the end of their natural life span in the wild. Because older rams more susceptible to dying during periods of nutritional stress (e.g. poor habitat or extreme winter weather events), they have a lower probability of surviving until future hunting seasons when compared to prime-aged animals.

In Unit 13D, where hunting opportunity was decreased from an average of 182 hunters per year (RY2000–RY2007) to an average of 77 hunters per year (RY2008–2013; 60% decrease) through a drawing permit hunt structure, the number of 38 inch rams harvested decreased from an average of 52 per year to 19 per year (64% decrease). During the same time period, the success rates of nonresident hunters increased from an average of 61% per year to 73% per year, and resident hunter success remained relatively unchanged (an average of 17% per year compared to 15% per year). The Unit 13D hunts help illustrate the trade-offs between managing for hunting opportunity versus hunt quality.

Some sheep hunts have seasons and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. The department has prepared a report on the status, by

unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it does not create or address a biological concern for sheep populations.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 29 - 5 AAC 92.990(a)(30). Definitions. Define the term broken as it applies to the definition of full-curl horn of male (ram) Dall sheep.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Provide a definition for the term “broken” that can be used in the description of the “full-curl horn” bag limit as it applies to male (ram) Dall sheep.

Broken, as it applies to the horn tips of male (rams) Dall sheep, means:

- 1) **The lamb tip is completely absent; horn tips that are chipped or cracked are not broken if any portion of the lamb tip is present;**
- 2) **Characteristics of the lamb tip include:**
 - a. **a length of less than four inches,**
 - b. **the inside surface of the lamb tip is distinctly concave when compared to the remainder of the horn, and**
 - c. **The lamb tip is the section of a horn that is grown during the first 6 months of a sheep’s life and is the section of horn distal of the first annulus, which is the swelling of the horn that forms during the first winter of life.**

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The regulatory definition of “full-curl horn” of a male (ram) Dall sheep is:

- 1) the tip of at least one horn has grown through 360 degrees of a circle viewed from the side, or
- 2) both horn tips are broken, or
- 3) the sheep is at least eight years of age as determined by horn growth annuli.

There is no definition in regulation of the term “broken”.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal requests a definition of the term “broken” for the benefit of the public and law enforcement. The proposed definition is based on the physical characteristics of horns that are missing at least one annulus. If both horns of the ram are missing the first annulus then, regardless of the number of remaining annuli, they would be considered “broken”, and the ram would be legal.

BACKGROUND: The term broken is used in the regulation that defines a “full-curl horn” of a male (ram) Dall sheep. The department is currently in the process of reviewing methods of determining the legality of sheep based on minimum horn size and/or characteristics of the horn under the full-curl horn regulation. Through this process “broken” was identified as a term that should be clarified in regulation.

Current harvest data shows that there are very few rams taken where both horns are considered broken, particularly for sheep that were less than 8 years of age. Since 2011, a total of 3,600 rams have been harvested. Of those rams, 13.4% (n=482) were classified as having both horns broken, and 0.9% (n=42) were less than 8 years of age and less than full curl.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department submitted and **SUPPORTS** this proposal to define “broken” as it applies to the regulatory definition of “full-curl horn” of a male (ram) Dall sheep. If a definition for “broken” is not adopted, another option for the board to consider is removing “broken horn tips” from the definition of “full-curl”.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 30 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Establish a nonresident bag limit for sheep of one every four years.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Professional Hunters Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would limit nonresident hunters to harvesting no more than one sheep every three or four years.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? All general season Dall sheep hunts and most permit hunts have a bag limit that applies to a single regulatory year. The Tok Management Area (TMA) drawing permit hunts (DS102 and DS103) are the only hunts with a bag limit of one ram every four regulatory years.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would affect successful nonresident sheep hunters who are interested in hunting sheep in Alaska more often than once every three or four years.

BACKGROUND: The full-curl bag limit can be used to provide unrestricted annual participation in sheep hunts and has not been linked to any negative effects on the sheep population or lamb production.

Since 2005, a total of 3,295 nonresidents successfully hunted sheep in Alaska. Of these, 136 nonresidents (4.5%) returned to Alaska to hunt sheep within 4 years of successfully harvesting a sheep.

The survey conducted by Dr. Todd Brinkman at University of Alaska Fairbanks showed that the majority of users surveyed (74%) favored a waiting period of 3 years before sheep hunting again. All three groups surveyed, those identifying themselves as resident hunters, guides and nonresident hunters, supported this option.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity for residents and nonresidents.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 31 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts. Allow one sheep or goat draw permit per hunter every three years.

PROPOSED BY: Dan Montgomery

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would limit resident and nonresident hunters to drawing no more than one Dall sheep or mountain goat draw permit every three years.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current regulation that limits hunters to drawing sheep or goat permits is described in regulation (**5 AAAC 92.050**) as follows:

(4)(F) an individual who is a successful applicant for a specific drawing permit hunt is ineligible to apply for a permit for that specific hunt the following year.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal affects hunters who successfully draw a permit to hunt sheep or goats more often than once every three years. If this proposal is adopted, hunters would still be able to participate in general season and registration hunts for sheep or goat annually. It is anticipated that the number

of valid applications for sheep and goat drawing permits received annually would decrease, but drawing success rates for applicants would not increase significantly. It is also unlikely to result in any detectable change in the number of sheep or goats available for harvest, or the number of either species harvested annually.

BACKGROUND: The department adjusts the number of drawing permits issued to achieve harvest objectives. If permits are not used, the number of permits issued is increased to compensate for the average number of unused permits. If permit usage rate were to increase and there is a concurrent increase in harvest, the department would issue fewer permits to keep the harvest within the objectives of each hunt.

Of the 6,023 sheep drawing permits that have been issued since 2005, 30% of the permits were not used, and of the 8,459 goat drawing permits, 48% were not used. The average rate at which drawing permits are not used is 34% (all species combined) and ranges from 11% for bison to 60% for elk. Permit usage did not change for bison after the board adopted a regulation limiting residents to one permit every 10 years in 2008 (10% unused during the 4 years prior to 2008 and 11% unused during the 4 years after 2008).

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because it is an allocative issue, and there are no biological concerns. If the proposal has the desired effect of increasing the usage rate of permits, the department would likely reduce the number of permits issued for hunts that are managed with a quota system.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 32 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change all sheep hunts to drawing or registration permit hunts.

PROPOSED BY: Demitrios Deoudes

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would convert all Dall sheep hunts to draw permit hunts from August 10–September 10 and registration permit hunts from September 11–20 if the harvest objective has not been met.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations. No sheep hunts are managed under the proposed permit hunt structure.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal converts all sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts from August 10–September 10 and registration hunts from September 11–September 20. It is not clear how this proposal affects existing drawing permit hunts, which the proposal indicates are “working well” under current regulations.

Background: The majority of Alaska’s sheep hunts have a full-curl bag limit, which restricts the harvest to older-age rams while protecting younger rams and ewes, and allows hunts to be managed through the harvest ticket system that does not limit hunting opportunity. Because of the restrictions imposed by the bag limit, legal harvest cannot reduce ram numbers to level that would reduce reproductive success. As a result the full-curl bag limit effectively eliminates the potential for overharvest that could affect the status of the sheep population or significantly reduce future harvest potential by keeping the harvest within sustainable limits. In addition, because older-age rams have higher rates of mortality it is reasonable to assume that a portion of the annual harvest is compensatory.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on this proposal because sheep harvests are kept at sustainable levels by the full-curl bag limit, and sheep can be managed under the proposed permit hunt structure.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.



PROPOSAL 33 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Extend the sheep hunting season statewide; provide a timeframe for resident-only and nonresident-only hunting and establish a statewide registration season.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Untiet and Cary Bloomquist

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would extend the sheep hunting season statewide in general harvest season hunt areas by adding 8 days to the beginning of the season and creating a resident-only registration permit hunt from August 2–9, a nonresident only registration hunt from August 10–17 and a combined resident/nonresident registration hunt from August 18–20. Auction tag purchasers would be able to participate in all hunt periods. In addition, the first two weeks of the registration hunt would alternate as follows: Residents before nonresidents for the first two years, then nonresidents before residents, then residents before nonresidents, and so forth.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The following regulations would be affected by this proposal.

Region II

- Unit 7 and portions of Unit 15
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–September 20, one full-curl ram

Region III

- Unit 24B, John River drainage upstream from Till Creek, and in the Glacier River Drainage
 - residents: August 1–April 30, 3 sheep.
- Remainder of Units 12, 19, 20, 24, 25, 26B and 26C
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–September 20, one full-curl ram.

Region IV

- Units 9, 11, 16 and portions of Unit 13
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–September 20, one full-curl ram

Region V

- Unit 23 - CLOSED -
- Unit 26A, east of and including Etivluk River drainage excluding Gates of the Arctic National Park
 - Residents: August 1–April 30, three sheep.
 - Residents and nonresidents: August 10–September 20, one full-curl ram.
- Unit 26A and 26B, Private lands within the Gates of the Arctic National Park
 - Residents: August 1–April 30, three sheep.

- Unit 26A, remainder
 - Residents and nonresidents: August 10–September 20, one full-curl ram.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If adopted, this proposal would convert general season harvest hunts to registration hunts and adds an additional week to the start of the current seasons. Existing registration hunts would also be modified to include the proposed seasons, but drawing hunts would not be affected by this proposal.

The proposal would separate resident and nonresident sheep hunters during the first two weeks of the season and restricts the frequency in which hunters can participate in the dedicated seasons. After the first two weeks, both residents and nonresidents could register to hunt for the remainder of the season.

The proposal call for expanded “governor’s” permit hunting opportunity by allowing the successful winner of the permit to hunt all of the available registration seasons.

BACKGROUND: Most of the hunt structures for sheep hunts in Alaska have been in place since the 1990s; however, there have been changes, including the creation of new drawing hunts in Units 14A and 13D in 2008 and a registration hunt in Unit 19C in 2013.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not to result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 34 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Extend the sheep hunting season statewide; provide a timeframe for resident-only and nonresident-only hunting; and establish a statewide registration season; and limit methods and means.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Untiet and Cary Bloomquist

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would extend sheep hunting seasons statewide in general harvest season hunt areas by adding 8 days to the start of each season and creating a resident-only, registration permit hunt from August 2–9 that is “walk-in only”. The second week would allow residents and nonresidents to hunt with a registration permit from August 10–17 in a restricted weapons hunt that does not allow the use of modern rifles. The third period from August 18–September 20 would be open to both residents and nonresidents through a registration permit hunt structure in open areas, statewide, with no access or weapon restrictions.

Auction tag purchasers would be able to participate in all hunt periods with any weapon (modern firearm, muzzleloader or archery).

This proposal would also convert existing sheep draw hunts to registration hunts except for Chugach State Park (Unit 14C) and the Tok Management Area.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations. There are no sheep hunts managed under the proposed permit hunt structure.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Similar to Proposal 33, this proposal converts the majority of sheep hunts in Alaska to registration hunts. The first week of the sheep season (which would start a week earlier) would be limited to resident hunting opportunity. In addition, this proposal proposes access restrictions during the first week and limiting the use of weapons to shotgun, muzzleloader, handgun and archery during the second week.

The proposal would convert some of the existing sheep draw hunts (e.g., Unit 13D, Delta Controlled Use Area) to registration hunts with permits available on-line and on a first-come, first-served basis.

BACKGROUND: Most of the hunt structures for sheep hunts in Alaska have been in place since the 1990s; however, there have been changes, including the creation of new drawing hunts in Units 14A and 13D in 2008 and a registration hunt in Unit 19C in 2013.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation sheep hunting opportunity.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 35 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Establish statewide sheep hunting seasons for residents and nonresidents based on last names.

PROPOSED BY: Wayne Kubat

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? If adopted, this proposal would divide sheep hunter opportunity for the first 10 days based on the first letter of the hunter's last name. Hunters with a last name that begin with the letters A through M (or wherever the halfway point falls in the alphabet) can harvest a ram from August 10–19 on odd numbered years, and hunters with last names starting with letters N through Z can harvest a ram from August 10–19 in even number years. All hunters could harvest a ram from August 20–September 20.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal restricts hunting opportunity during the first 10 days based on the first letter of the hunter's last name.

BACKGROUND: Most of the hunt structures for sheep hunts in Alaska have been in place since the 1990s; however, there have been changes, including the creation of new drawing hunts in Units 14A and 13D in 2008 and a registration hunt in Unit 19C in 2013. The proposed hunt structure is also listed as an alternative in Proposal 48, which reviews and potentially modifies sheep hunting opportunities statewide.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 36 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Modify resident and nonresident sheep hunting seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Lamal

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Open the nonresident sheep season 7 days after the resident season for all hunts statewide.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? All nonresident sheep hunting season starting dates would change from August 10 to August 17, unless there is a different starting date for a permit hunt.

BACKGROUND: Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for broad changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions III, IV, and V.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not to result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 37 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Modify resident and nonresident sheep hunting seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Jake Sprankle

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Open the nonresident sheep season 10 days after the resident season in all hunts statewide that currently begin on August 10. If there is a split season, nonresidents would start 10 days later than residents for the second portion of the season.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? There would be a reduction in nonresident sheep hunting opportunity.

BACKGROUND: Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for broad changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions III, IV, and V.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not to result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 38 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Modify resident and nonresident sheep hunting seasons.

PROPOSED BY: Brad Sparks

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Open the general nonresident sheep hunting season 10 days after the general resident sheep season.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? There would be a reduction in nonresident sheep hunting opportunity.

BACKGROUND: Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. Similar requests for broad changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions III, IV, and V.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters.

PROPOSAL 39 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Shorten the nonresident sheep hunting seasons statewide.

PROPOSED BY: Mike McCrary

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Open all nonresident sheep hunting seasons on September 1.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? There would be a reduction in nonresident sheep hunting opportunity.

BACKGROUND: Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for broad changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions III, IV, and V.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 40 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Restrict nonresident sheep hunting to a limited number of drawing opportunities.

PROPOSED BY: Steve Landa

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? If adopted, the first part of this proposal would restrict all nonresident sheep hunting in Alaska to draw permits. The proposal also states that sheep hunting guide services would be reserved for licensed Alaska residents only.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would create nonresident drawing permit hunts, and the department would limit the number of permits issued each year.

There would be no changes to commercial guide requirements because the board does not have the authority to change guide requirements.

BACKGROUND: Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. The board has allocated hunting opportunity previously between resident and nonresident hunters by modifying season dates or by allocating permits. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for board changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions II, III, IV and V.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters. If the board adopts the proposed nonresident allocation, the department will need guidance from the board on how to determine the number of nonresident permits issued annually.

The board does not have the authority to restrict nonresident guide services in Alaska.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 41 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts; and 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Establish a 10% nonresident sheep permit allocation.

PROPOSED BY: Tom Lamal

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would limit nonresident sheep hunting opportunity to 10% of what is available statewide. The 10% nonresident allocation would include nonresidents hunting with resident relatives or guides.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

The board has previously established allocations for the following hunts:

- Delta Controlled Use Area (portions of Units 20D, 20A and 13B)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Tok Management Area (Unit 12 and portions of Units 13C and 20D)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram every 4 years.
 - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Unit 13D (Tazeast)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 13D (Tazwest)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 14A
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Allocation: 90% resident and 10% nonresident

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal is adopted, the department would attempt to limit nonresident sheep hunters to 10% of the available hunting opportunity. The board would need to create new nonresident sheep draw

hunts and/or limited registration hunts to regulate nonresident hunting opportunity. Achieving a 10% nonresident allocation would also require the creation of draw or registration permits for residents. If resident participation is not regulated through a permit system, the department would rely on historical averages to estimate the anticipated resident participation rate and approximate the number of nonresident permits that should be issued annually to achieve the 10% allocation

BACKGROUND: Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. The board has allocated hunting opportunity previously between resident and nonresident hunters by modifying season dates or by allocating permits. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for board changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions II, III, IV and V.

If adopted, the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity for nonresidents for some of the existing draw hunts with an allocation such as the central Chugach draw hunts would decrease (e.g., Unit 13D would go from 20% to 10% nonresident allocation) and nonresident participation in sheep hunts statewide would decrease by about half from approximately 19% to 10% of the total sheep hunters.

Nonresident sheep hunters accounted for an average of 19% of the sheep hunters statewide between RY2010 and RY2014 with 448 nonresidents participating annually. To achieve the 10% allocation during the same period, the number of nonresidents would have been reduced to 190 nonresidents. Limiting nonresidents to 10% or a similar percentage of the available sheep permits may increase the number of legal rams available to residents and may increase resident success rates in some cases.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 42 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change nonresident sheep hunts to drawing permit hunts with a 12% allocation.

PROPOSED BY: Jacques Etcheverry

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would limit nonresident sheep hunting opportunity to 12% of what is available statewide.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

The board has previously established allocations for the following hunts:

- Delta Controlled Use Area (portions of Units 20D, 20A and 13B)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Tok Management Area (Unit 12 and portions of Units 13C and 20D)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram every 4 years.
 - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Unit 13D (Tazeast)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 13D (Tazwest)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 14A
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Allocation: 90% resident and 10% nonresident

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal is adopted, the department would attempt to limit nonresident sheep hunters to 12% of the available hunting opportunity. The board would need to create new nonresident sheep draw hunts and/or limited registration hunts to regulate nonresident hunting opportunity. Achieving a 12% nonresident allocation would also require the creation of draw or registration permits for residents. If resident participation is not regulated through a permit system, the department would rely on historical averages to estimate the anticipated resident participation rate and approximate the number of nonresident permits that should be issued annually to achieve the 12% allocation

BACKGROUND: BACKGROUND: Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. The board has allocated hunting opportunity previously between resident and nonresident hunters by modifying season dates or by allocating permits. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for board changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions II, III, IV and V.

If adopted, the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity for nonresidents for some of the existing draw hunts with an allocation such as the central Chugach (Unit 13D) draw hunts would decrease (e.g., Unit 13D would go from 20% to 12% nonresident allocation) and the allocations for most other drawing permit hunts that have been allocated would increase from 10% to 12%.

Nonresident sheep hunters accounted for an average of 19% of the sheep hunters statewide between RY2010 and RY2014 with 448 nonresidents participating annually. To achieve the 12% allocation during the same period, the number of nonresidents would need to have been reduced to 230 nonresidents. Limiting nonresidents to 12% or a similar percentage of the available sheep permits may increase the number of legal rams available to residents and may increase resident success rates in some cases.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 43 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Establish a 10% nonresident sheep permit allocation.

PROPOSED BY: Greg Origer

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal would limit nonresident sheep hunting opportunity to 10% of what is available statewide. The proposal also states that sheep hunting guide and assistant guides would need to be full-time Alaska residents. The proposal also recommends that the management of wildlife should be based on scientific data.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

The board has previously established allocations for the following hunts:

- Delta Controlled Use Area (portions of Units 20D, 20A and 13B)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Tok Management Area (Unit 12 and portions of Units 13C and 20D)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram every 4 years.
 - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Unit 13D (Tazeast)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 13D (Tazwest)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 14A
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Allocation: 90% resident and 10% nonresident

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal is adopted, the department would attempt to limit nonresident sheep hunters to 10% of the available hunting opportunity. The board would need to create new nonresident sheep draw hunts and/or limited registration hunts to regulate nonresident hunting opportunity. Achieving a 10% nonresident allocation would also require the creation of draw or registration permits for residents. If resident participation is not regulated through a permit system, the department would rely on historical averages to estimate the anticipated resident participation rate and approximate the number of nonresident permits that should be issued annually to achieve the 10% allocation

BACKGROUND: Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. The board has allocated hunting opportunity previously between resident and

nonresident hunters by modifying season dates or by allocating permits. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for board changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions II, III, IV and V.

If adopted, the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity for nonresidents for some of the existing draw hunts with an allocation such as the central Chugach draw hunts would decrease (e.g., Unit 13D would go from 20% to 10% nonresident allocation) and nonresident participation in sheep hunts statewide would decrease by about half from approximately 19% to 10% of the total sheep hunters.

Nonresident sheep hunters accounted for an average of 19% of the sheep hunters statewide between RY2010 and RY2014 with 448 nonresidents participating annually. To achieve the 10% allocation during the same period, the number of nonresidents would have been reduced to 190 nonresidents. Limiting nonresidents to 10% or a similar percentage of the available sheep permits may increase the number of legal rams available to residents and may increase resident success rates in some cases.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

The board does not have the authority to restrict nonresident guide services.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.



PROPOSAL 44 - 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts; and 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.
Allocate 10% or less of sheep permits to nonresidents.

PROPOSED BY: Brian Bagley

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal allocates 10% of the sheep permits issued annually to nonresidents and 90% to residents.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

The board has previously established allocations for the following hunts:

- Delta Controlled Use Area (portions of Units 20D, 20A and 13B)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Tok Management Area (Unit 12 and portions of Units 13C and 20D)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram every 4 years.
 - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Unit 13D (Tazeast)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 13D (Tazwest)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 14A
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Allocation: 90% resident and 10% nonresident

The board has not allocated sheep hunting opportunity for the Mount Harper sheep hunt (portions of Units 20D and 20E) or for any registration sheep hunts.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal is adopted, the department would issue 10% of the sheep permits to nonresidents and the remainder to residents.

BACKGROUND: Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. The board has allocated hunting opportunity previously between resident and nonresident hunters by modifying season dates or by allocating permits. Proposals 36-45 would

reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for board changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions II, III, IV and V.

If adopted, the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity for nonresidents for some of the existing draw hunts with an allocation such as the central Chugach draw hunts would decrease (e.g., Unit 13D would go from 20% to 10% nonresident allocation).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters. If this proposal is adopted, the department will need additional guidance on allocation for hunts with small numbers of permits, such as the Mt. Harper drawing permit.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 45 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Establish a 10% nonresident sheep permit allocation.

PROPOSED BY: Amy Cooper

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? This proposal allocates 10% of the sheep permits issued annually to nonresidents and 90% to residents.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

The board has previously established allocations for the following hunts:

- Delta Controlled Use Area (portions of Units 20D, 20A and 13B)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Tok Management Area (Unit 12 and portions of Units 13C and 20D)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram every 4 years.
 - Nonresidents are limited to 10% of permits.
- Unit 13D (Tazeast)
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 13D (Tazwest)

- residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
- Allocation: 80% resident and 20% nonresident
- Unit 14A
 - residents and nonresidents: August 10–25 or August 26–September 20, one full-curl ram.
 - Allocation: 90% resident and 10% nonresident

The board has not allocated sheep hunting opportunity for the Mount Harper sheep hunt (portions of Units 20D and 20E) or for any registration sheep hunts.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? If this proposal is adopted, the department would issue 10% of the sheep permits to nonresidents and the remainder to residents.

BACKGROUND: Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. The board has allocated hunting opportunity previously between resident and nonresident hunters by modifying season dates or by allocating permits. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for board changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions II, III, IV and V.

If adopted, the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity for nonresidents for some of the existing draw hunts with an allocation such as the central Chugach draw hunts would decrease (e.g., Unit 13D would go from 20% to 10% nonresident allocation).

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity between resident and nonresident hunters. If this proposal is adopted, the department will need additional guidance on allocation for hunts with small numbers of permits, such as the Mt. Harper drawing permit.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 46 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Establish a statewide archery season for sheep, August 1– 9.

PROPOSED BY: Alaskan Bowhunters Association

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Add a sheep hunt for bowhunters in all general season sheep hunting areas statewide during August 1–9. The bag limit would be one full-curl ram. International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) certification would be required.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations. No sheep hunts are managed under the proposed season dates.

The only archery-only hunting seasons for sheep in Alaska occur in Unit 14C. There are limited archery-only areas in the state (e.g., regulations for the Dalton Highway corridor restrict big game hunting, including sheep, to bow and arrow only within 5 miles on either side of the road).

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Bowhunters would have the opportunity to hunt Dall sheep for 9 days without competition from rifle hunters. All bowhunters who pursue Dall sheep in the new August 1–9 general season hunts would be required to obtain International Bowhunter Education Program (IBEP) certification.

BACKGROUND: Approximately 3,700 sheep were harvested in Alaska from RY2010–RY2014, and 60 sheep (less than 2%) were taken by bowhunters. Hunting methods used by unsuccessful hunters are not recorded; therefore, the extent to which this proposal would spread out hunting pressure is unknown.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of hunting opportunity to bowhunters.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 47 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Establish a statewide youth hunting season for Dall sheep, August 1 through 5.

PROPOSED BY: Jake and Tanner Sprankle

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Add a statewide youth sheep hunt for in all general season sheep hunting areas statewide during August 1–5. Dall sheep taken during the youth hunt would count against the bag limits of both the child and the adult, parent, stepparent, or legal guardian who accompanies the child.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? Youth hunters would have the opportunity to hunt Dall sheep for 5 days without competition from other hunters. All youth hunters who pursue Dall sheep in these hunts would be required to be accompanied by a licensed adult who is 21 years of age or older.

BACKGROUND: Currently, there are no youth hunting seasons for sheep in Alaska. There are limited youth hunting opportunities for moose and caribou, all of which are offered through registration and draw permits.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of hunting opportunity to youth hunters.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 48 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. and 5 AAC 92.057. Special provisions for Dall sheep and mountain goat drawing permit hunts. Review and potentially modify sheep hunting opportunities statewide.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaska Board of Game

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? The proposal lists several different potential hunt structure alternatives that allocate resident and nonresident sheep hunting opportunities.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The effect of this proposal would depend on which, if any, of the alternatives were adopted. Most of the alternatives would result in reduced resident and nonresident hunting opportunity. Generally, the alternatives listed would result in less early season opportunity. Most of the proposed strategies focus on crowding issues in general season harvest ticket hunt areas by managing hunter distribution over time through registration and draw permit hunts. One alternative, which is similar to Proposal 35, allocates season opportunity over time with registration hunts based on the first letter of the last name.

BACKGROUND: This proposal was generated by the board and reviewed during the 2015 board cycle. The board has received numerous proposals requesting changes to sheep seasons statewide in recent years, and this proposal offers several alternatives to the current hunt structures.

The Department of Fish and Game contracted the University of Alaska to survey members of the public who could be impacted by the proposed changes, including sheep hunters, guides, transporters and air taxi operators. The survey attempted to learn more about sheep hunter characteristics and behaviors, to quantify the extent of hunter satisfaction or dissatisfaction with current sheep hunting opportunities, and to quantify the extent of hunter approval or disapproval of potential changes to sheep hunting regulations and management. The department also put together a report on trends in sheep populations and in the hunting and harvest of sheep in Alaska. The department has also prepared a report on the status, by Game Management Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. These reports have been referred to and discussed by board members, users, guides, and others in many of the earlier sheep proposals deliberations. The reports and project summaries are available on the Board of Game website at <http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.main>. The public is encouraged to review the results of the University of Alaska Fairbanks survey and the ADF&G sheep reports and provide comments to the board by March 4 for the March 18-28, 2016 meeting in Fairbanks.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of hunting opportunity between residents and nonresidents.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in the units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of one or more of the alternatives would not result in significant additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 49 – 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Outdoor Council.

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? Restrict the bag limit for sheep to one ram in Units 19C (subsistence hunt only for RS380), 14C, 24B (within the John River drainage upstream from Till Creek, and that portion within the Glacier River drainage), 25A (east of Middle Fork of Chandalar River), 26C (RS595), and 26B (on private lands within the Gates of the Arctic National Park).

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS?

Unit	Customary and traditional use finding?	Amount reasonably necessary for subsistence?	Current bag limit
19C	Positive, all of Unit 19	1–5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One sheep with $\frac{3}{4}$ curl or smaller; excluding rams with both tips broken, lambs and ewes with lambs (RS380).
14C	No (inside Anchorage–Mat-Su–Kenai Peninsula nonsubsistence area)	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One ram by bow and arrow only (DS140–141/240/241).
24B, 25A, 26B, 26C	Positive, all of 23, 24, 25A, and 26 (Brooks Range)	75–125 combined	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 24B within the John River drainage upstream from Till Creek, and that portion within the Glacier River drainage: three sheep (harvest ticket). • 25A east of Middle Fork of Chandalar River: three sheep (RS595) • 26B private lands within the Gates of the Arctic National Park: three sheep (bag limit also applies to 26A; harvest ticket) • 26C: three sheep (RS595)

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? The bag limit changes would decrease hunter success rates and reduce the number of sheep that can be harvested by an individual hunter in most of the affected hunts.

BACKGROUND: Sheep populations in the Chugach Mountains and populations in the Alaska Range near Unit 19C are stable, and sheep populations in the Brooks Range are decreasing. The total number of sheep hunters has been declining over the last 20 years, and the total harvest has also been declining over the last 20 years.

Table 49-1. Harvests of Dall sheep in Unit 19 by place of residents based on Winfonet data and harvests of Dall sheep by local communities in Alaska based on household surveys.

Community	Harvests reported in Winfonet ¹											Estimated community harvests from the CSIS ^{2,3}										
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	10-yr avg	1983	1984	2002	2003	2004	2005	2007	2009	2011	Best data ⁴	Average CSIS
Aniak	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				0	0	0		0		0	0.0
Chuathbaluk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0			0	0	0		0		0	0.0
Crooked Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				0	0	0		0		0	0.0
Georgetown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0											
Lime Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0							0			0	0.0
Mcgrath	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.3		6							0	0	3.0
Napaimute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0											
Nikolai	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0.3		3	0						0	0	1.0
Red Devil	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				0	0	0		0		0	0.0
Sleetmute	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0			0	0	0		0		0	0.0
Stony River	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				0	0	0		0		0	0.0
Takotna	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0									0	0	0.0
Telida	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0											
Upper Kalskag	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				0	0	0		0		0	0.0
Total for area communities	0	0	0	3	0	2	1	0	0	0	0.6	0	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.0
Total unit 19 all AK residents	24	26	20	21	17	25	19	12	26	27	21.7											<i>data unavailable</i>
Total unit 19 non-residents	45	46	47	45	59	42	49	70	59	54	51.6											<i>data unavailable</i>

¹ Only includes GMU 19 harvests reported in Winfonet.

² May include some Dall sheep from outside GMU 19.

³ Empty cells indicate no data available because no survey was conducted.

⁴ Best data is the most recent survey year, regardless of historical results.

Table 49-2. Harvests of Dall sheep in Unit 24 by place of residents based on Winfonet data and harvests of Dall sheep by local communities in Alaska based on household surveys.

Community	Harvests reported in Winfonet ¹											Estimated community harvests from the CSIS ^{2,3,5}													
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	10-yr avg	1982	1983	1984	1992	1994	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2011	Best data ⁴	Average CSIS
Allakaket/Alatna	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	6		2									4	4	4.0
Anaktuvuk Pass ⁶	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				37	27	6.7	10	9.2	5	4.7	16	75	75	21.2
Bettles/Evansville	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	3		1									0	0	1.3
Coldfoot	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.3												0		
Hughes	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0													0.0
Huslia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0		0												0.0
Wiseman	6	3	7	4	1	1	2	1	0	0	2.5												2	2	2.0
Total for area communities	6	4	8	5	1	1	2	1	0	0	2.8	9		3									81	81	28.5
Total unit 24 all AK residents	16	13	14	14	19	13	17	13	10	9	13.8														<i>data unavailable</i>
Total unit 24 non-residents	9	9	14	11	14	14	12	12	12	9	11.6														<i>data unavailable</i>

¹ Only includes GMU 24 harvests reported in Winfonet.

² May include some Dall sheep from outside GMU 24.

³ Empty cells indicate no data available because no survey was conducted.

⁴ Best data is the most recent survey year, regardless of historical results.

⁵ CSIS estimates include estimates developed by the North Slope Arctic Borough.

⁶ Anaktuvuk Pass also summarized in the GMU 26 comparison. At least 22% of the estimated harvest for this community occurred outside of GMU 24.

Table 49-3. Harvests of Dall sheep in Unit 25 by place of residents based on Winfonet data and harvests of Dall sheep by local communities in Alaska based on household surveys.

Community	Harvests reported in Winfonet ¹											Estimated community harvests from the CSIS ^{2,3}					
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	10-yr avg	1984	1985	1987	2011	Best data ⁴	Average CSIS
Arctic Village	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4					
Beaver	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0		0	0	0.0
Birch Creek	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0					
Canyon Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0					
Central	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0					
Chalkyitsik	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0					
Circle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0					
Circle Hot Springs Station	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0					
Fort Yukon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0			0	0	0.0
Stevens Village	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0			0	0.0
Venetie	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0					
Total for area communities	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.4	0		0	0	0.0
Total unit 25 all AK residents	22	36	51	53	60	54	63	55	47	37		47.8	<i>data unavailable</i>				
Total unit 25 non-residents	36	40	42	45	38	39	31	47	26	33		37.7	<i>data unavailable</i>				

¹ Only includes GMU 25 harvests reported in Winfonet.

² May include some Dall sheep from outside GMU 25.

³ Empty cells indicate no data available because no survey was conducted.

⁴ Best data is the most recent survey year, regardless of historical results.

Table 49.4. Harvests of Dall sheep in Unit 26 by place of residents based on Winfonet data and harvests of Dall sheep by local communities in Alaska based on household surveys.

Community	Harvests reported in Winfonet ¹											Estimated community harvests from the CSIS ^{2,3,5}																		
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	10-yr avg	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2011	2012	Best data ⁴	Average CSIS
Anaktuvuk Pass ⁶	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0.4						37		27		6.7	10	9.2	5	4.7	16	75		75	21.2
Atqasuk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0																			
Barrow	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	0.4			12	12	9	2							3.6	1.7				9	6.7
Deadhorse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0																			
Kaktovik	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	47	17			44			30.3							18		44	31.3	
Nuiqsut	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0					0											0	0.0	
Point Lay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0			0														0	0	0.0
Prudhoe Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0.1																			
Wainwright	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0				0	0													0	
Total for area communities	2	0	1	0	1	1	2	2	1	0	1.0	47	17	12	12		83	0	27	30.3	6.7	10	9.2	8.6	6.4	34		0	128	59.2
Total unit 26 all AK residents	46	44	37	69	70	68	86	101	91	77	68.9																			
Total unit 26 non-residents	47	43	37	60	58	62	46	42	43	37	47.5																			

¹ Only includes GMU 26 harvests reported in Winfonet.

² May include some Dall sheep from outside GMU 26.

³ Empty cells indicate no data available because no survey was conducted.

⁴ Best data is the most recent survey year, regardless of historical results.

⁵ CSIS estimates include estimates developed by the North Slope Arctic Borough.

⁶ Anaktuvuk Pass also summarized in the GMU 24 comparison. At least 22% of the estimated harvest for this community occurred outside of GMU 26.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep hunting opportunity.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in those GMUs with positive customary and traditional use findings.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.

PROPOSAL 138 - 5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep. Change nonresident sheep hunting opportunities on state and BLM land to drawing permit hunts.

PROPOSED BY: Alaska Chapter Backcountry Hunters and Anglers

WHAT WOULD THE PROPOSAL DO? If adopted, the proposal would convert all general season nonresident sheep hunting opportunity on state and BLM lands to draw permits.

WHAT ARE THE CURRENT REGULATIONS? The current sheep hunting regulations can be found in 5 AAC 85.055 and in the Alaska Hunting Regulations.

WHAT WOULD BE THE EFFECT IF THE PROPOSAL WERE ADOPTED? This proposal would convert all general-season nonresident sheep hunting on state and BLM lands to drawing permit hunts, and the department would limit the number of permits issued each year.

The proposal briefly mentions establishing harvest allocations for nonresidents, which would not exceed 30% of the total harvest in any area; however the regulation for establishing a harvest allocation (5 AAC 92.008) was not on the call for proposals and cannot be acted on during this meeting.

BACKGROUND: Board policy (2007-173-BOG) indicates that allocations for specific hunts will be decided individually, based upon historical patterns of nonresident and resident use over the past 10 years. The board has allocated hunting opportunity previously between resident and nonresident hunters by modifying season dates or by allocating permits. Proposals 36-45 would reduce nonresident hunting opportunity. Similar requests for board changes in allocation of sheep hunting opportunity have been addressed previously by the board at meetings covering Regions II, III, IV and V.

Some sheep hunts have season dates and bag limits that provide a reasonable opportunity for success in harvesting a sheep for subsistence uses. All of these hunts are harvest ticket or registration permit. The department has prepared a report on the status, by Game Management

Unit, of sheep hunts on populations with positive customary and traditional use findings. The report is posted on the Board of Game website.

DEPARTMENT COMMENTS: The department is **NEUTRAL** on the allocation of sheep harvest between resident and nonresident hunters. If the board adopts the proposed nonresident hunt structure, the department will need guidance on how to determine the number of nonresident permits to issue annually.

If adopted, the record should show that the board has determined the new regulations to continue to provide a reasonable opportunity for success in customary and traditional uses of Dall sheep in units with positive customary and traditional use findings.

COST ANALYSIS: Adoption of this proposal would not result in additional costs to the department.