

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

**DALL SHEEP
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. W-33-8

PROJECT NO. 6.0

PERIOD: July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide (Regions II, III, and V)

PROJECT TITLE: Dall Sheep S&I

The Status of Dall Sheep and Factors Influencing Their Populations

Region II: GMU 14C

Regionwide Activities:

Activity: Monitor the sheep harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

Units 7 & 15: 8 rams were taken during the general season with 108 people hunting. No sheep were taken on drawing permits.

Unit 9: Three people reported hunting, but not harvested sheep.

Unit 11: Hunters (188) reported taking 64 sheep (62 rams, 2 ewes).

Unit 13: Hunters (412) reported taking 61 sheep (61 rams, 0 ewes).

Unit 14: Hunters reported harvesting 12 rams.

Unit 14C: Hunters reported harvesting 21 rams.

Unit 16: Hunters (42) reported harvesting 9 rams.

Activity: Collect data from sheep presented for sealing by hunters.

Data collected included: Hunt number, GMU, horn length (right and left horns), age (determined by annuli), if any horns were broomed or broken, and the curl length (3/4-7/8, 7/8- less than full, or full+). Harvest information for Unit 11 includes animals taken by federal subsistence hunters as well as those hunting under state regulations.

Activity: Survey selected sheep areas to determine distribution, sex and age.

Units 7 & 15: 7 count areas were surveyed resulting in the classification of 181 sheep. The composition was 43 rams, 113 ewes and small rams, and 25 lambs.

Unit 11: Two count areas were surveyed resulting in the classification of 314 sheep. The composition was 52 less than full curl rams, 27 full curl, 195 ewes and small rams, and 40 lambs.

Unit 13: Twelve count areas were surveyed resulting in the classification of 1705 sheep. The composition was 224 less than full curl rams, 100 full curl, 995 ewes and small rams, and 386 lambs.

Unit 13A & E, 14A & B, Talkeetna mountains: Surveys flown were as follows:

Caribou Crk	160 ewes	52 rams	68 lambs	Total 280
Boulder Crk	182 ewes	50 rams	67 lambs	Total 299
Hicks Cr	80 ewes	42 rams	28 lambs	Total 150
Sheep Mountain	46 ewes	23 rams	11 lambs	Total 80
Chickaloon to Kings River	72 ewes	22 rams	19 lambs	Total 113
Kings River to Little Su	59 ewes	20 rams	11 lambs	Total 100

Unit 14C: Sheep surveys were conducted. 56 full curl rams, 307 less than full curl rams, 2 unclassified rams, 600 ewes, and 134 lambs were counted.

Unit 16: Sheep surveys were not conducted in unit 16.

Activity: A new full time position will work with area biologists to determine research needs in the region.

This position worked on sheep management throughout the reporting period.

Submitted by: Mark Burch

Date: September 8, 2010

Region III:

Regionwide Activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Conduct aerial composition surveys to monitor population trends.

Conducted aerial composition surveys in the Delta Controlled Use Area, Tanana Hills, western Alaska Range, and Nutzotin Mountains and observed approximately 5,200 sheep.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor the harvest through hunter contacts and harvest or permit reports and analyze harvest data.

Monitored preliminary harvest of 635 sheep through hunter contacts and harvest or permit reports and analyzed harvest data.

ACTIVITY 3: Provide Dall sheep management information to State and Federal regulatory processes.

Provided information to 15 State fish and game advisory committees, Alaska Board of Game, and 2 Federal regional advisory councils.

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Region III Management Coordinator

Region V:

Regionwide Activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Provide information to State and Federal regulatory processes on Dall sheep management.

Area management staff reviewed State and Federal regulatory proposals, attended regulatory process meetings, and presented Dall sheep information to the State Board of Game, State Fish and Game Advisory Committees, Federal Subsistence Board, and Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils.

Mountain Range or Use Area Activities:

Baird Mountains:

ACTIVITY 1: Assist NPS with aerial surveys in established count areas as needed.

Department assisted in NPS-lead sheep surveys in the Baird Mountains in July 2009. Surveys were completed, and 823 sheep were observed.

DeLong Mountains:

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor harvests through the harvest ticket system, permit hunts, Community-based Harvest Assessments, public contacts and field observations.

Eleven drawing permits were issued to hunters for the fall 2009 hunting season; all hunted and reported. Six rams were taken under this hunt. Thirty hunters registered to hunt sheep under RS388 and 3 sheep were taken (all rams). No harvest information was available from federal sheep hunts.

ACTIVITY 2: Assist NPS with aerial surveys as needed.

NPS staff focused their efforts in Unit 23 exclusively on the Baird Mountains. Department staff conducted three days of surveys in the Wulik Peaks portion of the De

Long Mountains but weather and scheduling prevented survey completion. Information from these surveys was shared with the NPS to contribute to their rangewide sheep database.

ACTIVITY 3: Assess population and composition in years when NPS is not surveying the area.

Surveys focused in the Wulik Peaks were intended to meet this goal and provide an understanding of the number of full curl rams in an area that may experience intensive pressure with new caps on the number of transporters that may fly into the Noatak National Preserve.

Schwatka Mountains:

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor harvests through the harvest ticket system, permit hunts, community-based harvest assessments, public contacts and field observations.

No sheep were taken under the registration hunt RS389 or the general hunt. No harvest information was available from federal sheep hunts.

Submitted by: Peter Bente, Survey and Inventory Coordinator, Region V