

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 25526
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**DALL SHEEP
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY
FEDERAL AID PERFORMANCE REPORT**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NR.: W-33-1

PROJECT NR.: 6.0

WORK LOCATION: Statewide

PERIOD: 1 July 2002–30 June 2003

PROJECT LOCATIONS: Game Management Regions 2, 3, and 5

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Alaska Dall Sheep and Factors Influencing Their Populations.

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This statewide performance report includes the three regions involved in Dall sheep survey and inventory activities. Statewide and regional activities are listed before specific activities by herd and game management unit.

**The Status of Alaska Dall Sheep and
Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II**

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Prepare a sheep management report.

Final Dall Sheep management reports were submitted during fall 2002.

Activity 2: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Activity 3: Provide information to the Board of Game on sheep management.

The Board of Game addressed proposals regarding Dall sheep in Region 2 during its spring 2003 meeting.

Activity 4: Monitor the sheep harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

Activity 5: Conduct summer aerial sex and age composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality of sheep.

Dall sheep surveys were conducted in portions of all mountain ranges in region 2 during this reporting period.

Activities by Mountain Range and Unit

Kenai Mountains (Unit 7 & 15)

Activity 1: Monitor the sheep harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

The preliminary 2002–03 harvest for the general season was:

Rams 15	Ewes 1	Total 16
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The preliminary 2002/03 harvest for the permit hunts was:

Round Mountain Hunt # 152	Rams 0	Ewes 5	Total 5
Crescent Mountain Hunt # 154	Rams 1	Ewes 2	Total 3
Crescent Mountain Hunt # 156	Rams 1	Ewes 0	Total 1

Activity 2: Conduct summer aerial sex and age composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality of sheep.

Four count areas were surveyed resulting in the classification of 328 sheep. The composition was 80 rams, 205 ewes and small rams, and 43 lambs. Lambs totaled 13% of the surveyed sheep.

South Wrangell Mountains (Unit 11)

Activity 1: Monitor the sheep harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

Preliminary Harvest:

Unit 11	Number of Hunters	269
	Rams Harvested	80

Activity 2: Conduct summer aerial sex and age composition surveys in cooperation with the National Park Service to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality of sheep.

Survey results July 2003:

CA 11	128 ewes	40 rams	41 lambs	Total 209
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Chugach Mountains (Units 11, 13D, 14A, and 14C)

Activity 1: Conduct summer aerial sex and age composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality of sheep.

A survey was completed in Unit 14C:

Rams 600 Ewes 865 Lambs 153 Total 1654

Surveys were conducted in Count Areas A-F in Unit 14A:

Rams 276 Ewes 469 Lambs 121 Total 866

Activity 2: Monitor the sheep harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

The preliminary 2002–03 Chugach Mountains harvest was:

Rams 127 Ewes 23 Total 150

Talkeetna Mountains (Units 13A and E, 14A and B)

Activity 1: Monitor the sheep harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

Talkeetna Mountains ram harvest .:

13A 43
13E 8
14A 9
14B 7
Total 67

Activity 2: Conduct summer aerial sex and age composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality of sheep.

Survey results June–July 2003

Caribou Crk	241 ewes	184 rams`	97 lambs`	Total 522
Sheep Mtn	76 ewes	59 rams	14 lambs	Total 149
Hick’s Crk	89 ewes	17 rams	27 lambs	Total 133
Boulder Crk	148 ewes	42 rams	53 lambs	Total 222
Watana Crk	33 ewes	10 rams	7 lambs	Total 50

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project: None

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$24.3

Submitted by: Michael G. McDonald, Assistant Management Coordinator

The Status of Alaska Dall Sheep and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region III

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Wrote an annual survey and inventory report.

Activity 2: Provide information to the Board of Game and advisory committees on sheep management.

Made presentations to the Board of Game and advisory committees as needed.

Activities by Mountain Range or Use Area

Alaska Range West and South of Denali National Park and Preserve

Activity 1: Monitor the harvest through hunter contacts and harvest or permit reports and analyze harvest data.

Monitored the harvest of 74 rams (average horn length of 35" and average age of 9 years) through harvest reports, and analyzed harvest data.

Activity 2: Conduct an aerial survey to estimate initial productivity and lamb survival.

Conducted an aerial survey to estimate initial productivity and lamb survival, and coordinated with local guides and Lake Clark National Park personnel to cooperate with future surveys (data not yet analyzed).

Mentasta, Nutzotin and northern Wrangell Mountains

Activity 1: Monitor the harvest through hunter contacts as well as harvest or permit reports and analyze harvest data.

Monitored harvest and hunter distribution by aerial survey, in field hunter contacts, and review of harvest reports and analyzed harvest data. Unit-wide, 264 hunters harvested 132 rams during the general hunt.

Activity 2: Conduct an aerial survey to estimate initial productivity and lamb survival.

Conducted aerial surveys to estimate productivity and survival. Observed 30 lambs and 58 rams:100 ewes.

Activity 3: Conduct in-season aerial surveys of hunter distribution and activity.

Monitored hunter distribution by aerial survey to aid analysis of harvest and harvest planning.

Tok Management Area

Activity 1: Monitor the harvest through hunter contacts and harvest or permit reports and analyze harvest data.

Monitored harvest and hunter distribution by aerial survey, in field hunter contacts, and review of harvest reports and analyzed harvest data. Under the TMA drawing permit, 88 hunters (88% participation rate) harvested 34 rams (9% \geq 40”).

Activity 2: Conduct an aerial survey to monitor population composition and trend.

Composited 1,002 sheep during an aerial composition survey in the eastern portion of the TMA, finding 187 lambs and 75 rams:100 ewes.

Delta Controlled Use Area

Activity 1: Monitor the harvest through hunter contacts as well as harvest or permit reports and analyze harvest data.

Monitored the harvest of 20 sheep in permit hunt DS203 and 36 sheep in DS204 through hunter contacts and permit reports and analyzed harvest data.

Activity 2: Complete hunter questionnaire to assess opinions about the hunt and Delta Controlled Use Area management.

No hunter questionnaires mailed to assess opinions about the hunt and Delta Controlled Use Area management because of other higher priorities.

North Side of the Alaska Range East of the Nenana River, West of the Delta River and South of the Tanana River

Activity 1: Monitor the harvest through hunter contacts as well as harvest or permit reports and analyze harvest data.

Monitored harvest and analyzed harvest report information (reported harvest = 56 rams).

Activity 2: Conduct an aerial survey to estimate initial productivity and lamb survival.

Conducted aerial surveys to estimate initial productivity and lamb survival (results not yet analyzed).

White Mountains

Activity 1: Monitor the harvest through hunter contacts as well as harvest or permit reports and analyze harvest data.

Monitored harvest and analyzed harvest report information (reported harvest = 6 rams)

Activity 2: Conduct an aerial survey to estimate initial productivity and lamb survival.

Conducted aerial surveys to estimate initial productivity and lamb survival (observed 28 lambs:100 ewes).

Tanana Hills

Activity 1: Monitor the harvest through hunter contacts as well as harvest or permit reports and analyze harvest data.

Administered the Mt. Harper drawing permit hunt.

Monitored harvest and hunter distribution using aerial surveys, in field hunter contacts, and harvest reports/drawing permits. 26 hunters harvested 8 rams during the general hunt and 4 hunters took 2 rams under the Mt. Harper drawing permit.

Activity 2: Conduct an aerial survey to estimate initial productivity and lamb survival.

Conducted aerial population survey in conjunction with Bureau of Land Management. Composed 99 sheep in the Mt. Harper area of Unit 20E (14 lambs and 73 rams:100 ewes). Composed 77 sheep in the Glacier Mt. Area (15 lambs and 35 rams:100 ewes).

Central Brooks Range West of the Dalton Highway Corridor to Howard Pass, including Gates of the Arctic National Park

Activity 1: Monitor the harvest through hunter contacts and harvest or permit reports and analyze harvest data.

Monitored the harvest through hunter contacts and harvest or permit reports. Preliminary analysis of data not yet completed.

Eastern Brooks Range

Activity 1: Monitor the harvest through hunter contacts and harvest or permit reports and analyze harvest data.

Monitored the harvest through hunter contacts and harvest or permit reports and analyzed harvest data. Preliminary harvest data indicate that 98 rams were harvested in fall 2002.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:

Eastern Brooks Range: conducted aerial composition surveys in western Unit 25A, counted 975 sheep, including 621 ewes, 114 lambs, 195 sublegal rams, 34 legal rams and 11 of unknown sex and age.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$59.7

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Management Coordinator

The Status of Alaska Dall Sheep and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region V

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Write an annual survey and inventory performance report.

Performance report for Units and 23 and 26A were prepared August 2003 and submitted to headquarters in early September 2003

Activity 2: Provide information to the Board of Game on sheep management.

None required.

Mountain Range or Use Area Activities

DeLong Mountains

Activity 1: Conduct aerial sex and age composition surveys in established count areas.

The department did not conduct sheep surveys in the DeLong Mountains because of a conflict with the Western Arctic Caribou Herd photocensus and poor weather.

Activity 2: Monitor harvests through the harvest ticket system, permit hunts, Community-based Harvest Assessments, public contacts and field observations.

No sheep were reported taken under state regulations in the De Long Mountains.

Activity 3: Update population objectives in cooperation with the public and other agencies.

Population objectives were not discussed during this reporting period.

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 reported taken under state regulations in the Schwatka Mountains.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project: None.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$0.8

Submitted by: Peter Bente, Management Coordinator

Statewide Project Costs (in thousands):

State Share = \$21.2 Federal Share = \$63.6 Total Costs = \$84.8