



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Central/Southwest

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October 11, 2016

An Agenda Change Request (ACR) has been submitted to the Alaska Board of Game requesting to change 5 AAC 85.055, Hunting seasons and bag limits for sheep, statewide.

With respect to the board's ACR acceptance criteria (5 AAC 92.005):

- (A) The department is unaware of any conservation concerns that require immediate board action to address a biological concern or a loss of hunting opportunity.
- (B) The department is unaware of an error in regulation.
- (C) The department is unaware of any unforeseen effects of regulations that should be addressed in a change to a regulation.

The proponent is asking the board to eliminate the one sheep every four years bag limit for nonresidents or to apply it equally to residents and nonresidents (all sheep hunters). Similar to nonresident brown bear hunters, nonresident sheep hunters rarely hunt sheep twice in four years, so the effect of the proposed regulation is negligible. Of the 3,300 nonresident sheep hunters who successfully took sheep in 2005–2014, only 136 (4.5%) returned to Alaska to hunt sheep within a four-year period. Nonresidents hunting sheep with resident relatives hunt sheep more frequently than guided nonresidents. As a result, the regulation appears to affect nonresidents hunting with resident relatives the most, even though their success rate is lower than guided nonresidents. Consideration of the proposed regulation is primarily allocative and does not address biological concerns for sheep populations.

There are some sheep populations for which the board has not yet determined if there are customary and traditional subsistence uses.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce Dale".

Bruce Dale, Director
Division of Wildlife Conservation