

**PROPOSAL 12 – 5 AAC 92.085(8). Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.**  
Remove the restrictions on the use of aircraft for sheep hunting as follows:

Simply rescind the regulations created by passing the Board of Game generated Proposal 207.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** The regulation promulgated by the Board of Game (board) commonly referred to as Proposal 207 (regarding use of aircraft during sheep season) is not good for many reasons:

- 1) It promotes crowding at the beginning of sheep season.
- 2) It encourages flying into unsafe conditions for hunters trying to get into position prior to season opening.
- 3) It discourages making several passes to evaluate the safety of a landing area (that may have changed significantly from the previous year).
- 4) Because sheep move from mid-summer ranges to fall ranges it give significant advantage to hunters who hunt the first week of the season or to guides who may have several assistant guides continuously in the field and are able to keep track of sheep movements.
- 5) There is already a federal law (the anti-airborne hunting act) that prohibits disturbing any wildlife with an aircraft. This essentially already prohibits the type of activity that the board intends to limit with Proposal 207.
- 6) If an air taxi operator is flying a client into an area for a drop-off hunt it has been traditional to make one circle around the general area of the drop-off location to give the hunter an idea of the "lay of the land". This is still legal if the hunter is hunting moose, caribou, bear or goats but not sheep. It interferes with the safety and enjoyment of the hunt.
- 7) I can personally say that it adds a layer of repressive regulation that makes sheep hunting less safe and less enjoyable for resident hunters who own aircraft.
- 8) It has resulted in some resident sheep hunters not hunting sheep.
- 9) It resulted in the formation of a resident hunter activist group Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK).
- 10) It was opposed by many advisory committees.

**PROPOSED BY:** John Frost

(EG-F17-055)

\*\*\*\*\*