### Proposal 77

**Muskox/Unit 26B**

#### PROPOSAL 77

- Reauthorize muskox registration or drawing permits to residents only in Unit 26B

**Submitted by:** Public

**Department Recommendation:** OPPOSE

#### Effect of proposal:

- Re-opening muskox hunting in Unit 26B for residents
- *The Dept. currently has authority to re-open a hunt*

#### Proponent’s Issues:

- Requests reauthorization of muskox registration or drawing permits made available to residents for Unit 26B
**Proposal 77**

**Muskox/Unit 26B**

**Muskox Distribution in April 2019**

- **Prudhoe Bay Closed Area**
- **Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area**

---

**Hunt is closed; but remains in codified, for residents only**

**Unit 26A & 26B, west of the Dalton Hwy**

1 muskox by Tier II; up to 20 muskox may be taken  
Aug. 1—Mar. 31

**Unit 26B, east of the Dalton Hwy**

1 muskox by Tier I (registration); *(harvest quota = 4)*  
Season to be announced

**OR**

1 bull by drawing permit if harvestable surplus is greater than 4 muskoxen; up to 5 muskoxen may be taken  
Sept. 20—Oct. 10  
Mar. 10—Mar 20
Proposal 77

Muskox/Unit 26B

**Hunt is closed; but remains in codified, for residents only**

Unit 26A & 26B, west of the Dalton Hwy

1 muskox by Tier II; up to 20 muskox may be taken  
Aug. 1—Mar. 31

Unit 26B, east of the Dalton Hwy

1 muskox by Tier I (registration); (harvest quota = 4)  
Season to be announced

**OR**

1 bull by drawing permit if harvestable surplus is greater than 4 muskoxen; up to 5 muskoxen may be taken  
Sept. 20—Oct. 10  
Mar. 10—Mar 20

---

**ANS for Unit 26A & 26B Muskoxen established 1998**

- Unit 26A & 26B, that portion west of the DHCMA
  - 20 muskoxen

- Unit 26B, that portion east of the DHCMA
  - 4 muskoxen
Proposal 77 Muskox/Unit 26B

Eastern North Slope Muskox Population size, 1980–2019

Number of Muskoxen

Year

Proposal 77 Muskox/Unit 26B

Eastern North Slope Muskox Population size, 1980–2019

Number of Muskoxen

Year
Proposal 77

Unit 26B & 26C Muskox Population Size, 1999–2019

- Unit 26C
- Unit 26B

2006–2011 Research study on causes of mortality on muskox

Year: 1999-2019

Number of Muskoxen:

0 100 200 300 400 500 600

Unit 26B & 26C Muskox Population Size, 1999–2019

2010 & 2011 Liberalize Bear seasons

Year: 2009-2019

Number of Muskoxen:

0 100 200 300 400 500 600
Proposal 77  Muskox/Unit 26B

Unit 26B & 26C Population Size, 1999--2019

- 2006–2011 Research study
- 2010 & 2011 Liberalize Bear seasons
- 2012 & 2013 Focused Bear Control
- 2012–2018 Opportunistic Bear Control

Large natural mortality events not captured in Research Study
Brief Summary of Bear Control

Focused Bear Control in FY12 and FY13
• Removed 6 bears spring of 2012 and 2013
• Muskox drowning event in fall 2012 (lost 12% of small population)
• Mortality of adults from bear predation was lower
• Slight increased summer calf survival, but it did not result in increased yearling recruitment

Opportunistic Bear control 2014–2018
• Removed 1 bear spring of 2015
• Population approx. 200 animals during 2012–2017

Population increased in 2018 and 2019
• In 2018, population was 285
• In 2019, population was 297
**Proposal 77**

**Number of Yearlings**

![Number of Yearlings Graph](image)

**PROPOSAL 77**

- Reauthorize registration or drawing muskox permits to residents only in Unit 26B

*Submitted by:* Public

*Department Recommendation:* OPPOSE
### Proposal 79  
**PROPOSAL 79**  
In Unit 26B remainder,  
- Increase resident bag limit for caribou from 2 bulls to 4 bulls  
- Open resident season on 1 July vs 1 August  
- Open a resident-only limited registration hunt for cows after Aug 15  

**Submitted by:** Fairbanks Fish & Game AC  

**Department Recommendation:**  
NEUTRAL on season & bag limit  
OPPOSE on limited registration cow hunt

#### Effect of proposal:  
- Increase resident hunting opportunity on the CAH in Unit 26B, remainder

#### Proponent’s Issues:  
- Currently harvesting below allowable harvest  
- Low participation by residents

Note that Proposals 80 and 81 also request regulatory changes for residents and nonresidents hunting CAH in Unit 26B
Current Regulations

- **NW 26B (Residents)**
  - 5 caribou/day
  - No closed for bulls, July 1–May 15, cows

- **Remainder 26B (Residents)**
  - 2 bulls/year
  - Aug. 1–Apr. 30

- **26B (Nonresidents)**
  - 1 bull/year
  - Aug. 1–Sept. 15
Proposal 79  Caribou/Unit 26B

Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area

Prudhoe Bay

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Gates of Arctic National Park & Preserve

CAH Population Objective: 28,000–32,000

CAH Population Size

Year

Number of caribou
Central Arctic Caribou Fall Composition, 2009‒2019

**Bulls: 100 cows**

Year

- 2009: 50
- 2010: 60
- 2011: 70
- 2012: 80
- 2013: 90
- 2014: 80
- 2015: 70
- 2016: 60
- 2017: 50
- 2018: 60
- 2019: 70

Proportion: 50:100

**Calves: 100 cows**

Year

- 2009: 20
- 2010: 30
- 2011: 40
- 2012: 50
- 2013: 60
- 2014: 50
- 2015: 40
- 2016: 30
- 2017: 40
- 2018: 50
- 2019: 60

Proportion: 61:100
Proposal 79  Caribou/Unit 26B

Percent Mortality of Females ≥ 1 year old

- **CAH Increasing**
  - Mean = 12%

- **CAH Decreasing**
  - Mean = 21%

- 18%

Regulatory Year

---

**CAH Population Objective: 28,000–32,000**

- 2019 Population estimate = 30,000 caribou
- Many calves in 2019
- Good bull:cow ratios in 2019
- High mortality of radiocollared adult females in RY2018

**Recommending to continue to restrict cow harvest**
Allowable Harvest

- **Applied a 3% harvest rate:**
  - Allowable harvest = 900 caribou,
    of which ≤ 75 can be cows
  - ANS for CAH = 250–450

### Harvest of CAH by Residency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residency</th>
<th>Mean RY17 &amp; RY18 Harvest</th>
<th>Hunters</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 26A Residents</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>na</td>
<td>na</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unit 24B Residents</td>
<td>100–200</td>
<td>na</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Alaska Residents</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>232</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>422–522 (60–90 cows)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Allowable harvest = 900 caribou; ≤ 75 cows
**Proposal 79  Caribou/Unit 26B**

**Number of Resident Hunters that reported harvesting 2 bulls in RY17 and RY18**

- **RY17:** 11 of 348 hunters harvested 2 bulls
- **RY18:** 17 of 295 hunters harvested 2 bulls

Predict < 75 additional caribou will be harvested with a 4-bull bag limit for residents

---

**Proposal 79  Caribou/Unit 26B**

**Reported CAH Total Hunters and Harvest, RY10–RY18**

![Graph showing total hunters and harvest over Regulatory Years 2010 to 2018](image)

- **Total hunters**
- **Total harvest**

Regulatory changes

*Note: Regulatory changes marked with an asterisk.*
Male and Female Harvest by Residents, RY10–RY18

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Resident Male Harvest</th>
<th>Resident Female Harvest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>2016</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Regulatory changes

Reported Resident CAH Harvest in July

RY00–RY16

- Range: 3–42 caribou (1–9 were female)
- Mean: 18 caribou
## Proposal 79

### PROPOSAL 79

In Unit 26B remainder,
- Increase resident bag limit for caribou from 2 bulls to 4 bulls
- Open resident season on 1 July vs 1 August
- Open a resident-only limited registration hunt for cows after Aug 15

Submitted by: Fairbanks Fish & Game AC

Department Recommendation:
- NEUTRAL on season & bag limit
- OPPOSE on limited registration cow hunt

---

## Proposal 80

### PROPOSAL 80

- Increase resident hunting opportunity on the CAH in Unit 26B, Remainder
- Decrease nonresident hunting opportunity on CAH in Unit 26B

Submitted by: Public

Department Recommendation
- NEUTRAL on resident season & bag limit
- OPPOSE on registration cow hunt
- NEUTRAL on decreasing nonresident opportunity
Proposal 80  Caribou/Unit 26B

**Effect of Proposal:**

In Unit 26B remainder,

**For Residents:**
- Increase bag limit for caribou from 2 bulls to 5 bulls
- Open season on 1 July vs 1 August
- Open a limited registration hunt for 1 cow, 15 Aug—30 Mar with 5-day reporting period

**For Nonresidents:**
- Decrease nonresident hunting opportunity
  - No more than 10% of total harvest; registration permit; 5-day reporting period

**Proponent’s Issues:**

- Harvest opportunity for residents was reduced in RY17, while still providing nonresident hunting opportunity
- Low participation by residents because of reduced bag limits (bulls and cows)
- Majority of CAH harvest is taken by nonresidents
- CAH is an IM population and is below population objective
- Nonresidents should not harvest more than 10% of total harvest
- Nonresidents should be on a permit system
Proposal 80

Caribou/Unit 26B

Biological data & regulations presented in the previous proposal 79 applies to this proposal

-- CAH IM Population Objective: 28,000–32,000 --

- 2019 CAH Population Size: 30,096
- 2017 CAH Population Size: 28,051
### Harvest of CAH by Residency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residency</th>
<th>RY17–RY18 Harvest</th>
<th>Hunters</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 26A Residents</td>
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*Allowable harvest= 900 caribou; ≤ 75 cows*

### Proportion of Harvest by Residency

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Residency</th>
<th>RY17–RY18 proportion of harvest</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unit 26A &amp; 24B Residents</td>
<td>47–57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Alaska Residents</td>
<td>22–27%</td>
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<td>Nonresident</td>
<td>21–26%</td>
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</table>
What is 10% of total harvest?

Based on average harvest of RY17 & RY18:

222 (reported harvest)
200–300 (estimated harvest)
422–522 (total harvest)

42–52 bull harvest quota for nonresidents

PROPOSAL 80

- Increase resident hunting opportunity on the CAH in Unit 26B, Remainder
- Decrease nonresident hunting opportunity on CAH in Unit 26B

Submitted by: Public

Department Recommendation
- NEUTRAL on resident season & bag limit
- OPPOSE on registration cow hunt
- NEUTRAL on decreasing nonresident opportunity

North Slope AC:
## Proposal 81  
**Caribou/Unit 26B**

### PROPOSAL 81

In Unit 26,
- Increase nonresident bag limit for caribou from 1 bull to 2 bulls

**Submitted by:** Public

**Department Recommendation:** NEUTRAL for Unit 26B

---

### Effect of Proposal:

- Increase nonresident hunting opportunity for caribou in Unit 26
  - Unit 26A was addressed at Region V BOG
  - Unit 26C currently has a 2-bull caribou bag limit for nonresidents
Proposal 81  Caribou/Unit 26B

**Proponent’s Issues:**

- Currently well below allowable harvest in 26B
- Reduced participation by nonresidents partially due to reduced bag limit beginning RY17
- No biological reason not to increase bag limit in 26B

Biological data & regulations presented in the previous proposal 79 applies to this proposal.
### Current Regulations

**NW 26B (residents)**
- 5 caribou/day
- No closed for bulls, July 1–May 15, cows

**Remainder 26B (residents)**
- 2 bulls/year
- Aug. 1–Apr. 30

**26B (nonresidents)**
- 1 bull/year
- Aug. 1–Sept. 15

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### Harvest of CAH by Residency

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**Allowable harvest= 900 caribou; ≤ 75 cows**
Nonresident hunters harvesting 2 bulls

Predict < 50 additional caribou will be harvested with a 2-bull bag limit for nonresidents

PROPOSAL 81

In Unit 26,
• Increase nonresident bag limit for caribou from 1 bull to 2 bulls

Submitted by: Public

Department Recommendation: NEUTRAL
Proposal 78  Caribou/Units 24, 26B, 26C

PROPOSAL 78

Eliminate the requirement for North Slope residents to obtain the RC907 permit and general season caribou harvest tickets to hunt caribou and report their harvest in a portion of Units 23 & 24B, and Units 26A, B, & C.

Submitted by: North Slope Fish & Game AC

Department Recommendation: Neutral

---

Proposal 78  Caribou/Unit 26B

Effect of proposal:

Eliminate RC907 permit and general season caribou harvest ticket requirement:

- In portions of Unit 23 and 24B, and in all of Units 26A, 26B, and 26C.
- For North Slope Residents (Point Hope, Anaktuvuk Pass, residents of Units 26A, 26B & 26C)
**Proposal 78**  
**Caribou/Unit 26B**

**Proponent’s Issues:**

- North Slope residents are hesitant to report harvest to outside agencies, resulting in poor harvest data for ADFG
- NSB DWM is collecting harvest data via household surveys

---

**Proposal 78**  
**Caribou/Unit 26B**

**Regulations during mid-1980s–2015:**

When hunting caribou:

Hunters residing north of the Yukon River must register to hunt north of the Yukon River (no reporting requirement).

**Current Region III Regulations, 2016–Present:**

Harvest ticket is required to hunt caribou in Units 24B, 26B, and 26C (and all Region III units).
### Harvest Data are Necessary

- To be able to manage animal populations being used by humans
  - Prevent/slow (or not contribute to) a population decline
  - Prevent loss of hunting opportunity
- Address allocation and user conflict issues
- Understanding animal population dynamics

### Methods Used to Obtain Harvest Data

1. Tier II, Registration, Draw Permits
   - Hunters must report or there is a potential penalty (FTR)
   - ADF&G follows up w/emails & phone calls
   - ADF&G receive 95%+ of data—very good reporting

*For animal populations requiring close monitoring or when user conflicts are high*
## Methods Used to Obtain Harvest Data cont’d

### 2. Harvest Tickets

- Reporting requirement but no penalty
- Reminder letters from ADF&G
- In 2018, ADF&G received 85%+ of data on caribou

For *animal populations requiring less close monitoring*

### 3. Household Surveys

- Division of Subsistence
- NSB Dept of Wildlife Management
- Industry/Consultants
4. Need to investigate new methods for future
   • Use technology
   • Collaborate

May need to think outside the box
Results of harvest tickets for CAH for RY17 & RY18

Average reported harvest from harvest tickets:
- Residents: 113
- Nonresidents: 109

Estimated harvest from household surveys & caribou distribution:
- Unit 26A Residents: 100
- Unit 24B Residents: 100–200

CAH objective

- Currently restricting harvest on this herd to allow growth
Results of harvest tickets for PCH for RY17 & RY18

Average reported harvest from harvest tickets:
- Residents: 48
- Nonresidents: 60

Estimated harvest from household surveys & caribou distribution:
- Unit 26C Residents: 100–150

Less than 1/3 of the harvest is reported on harvest tickets

CONCLUSION

- Harvest tickets have only been required since 2016
  - In some rural areas, harvest tickets are successful
- If use of harvest tickets by North Slope communities is successful; it will likely take many years

Requirement of harvest tickets may help to emphasize the importance of obtaining harvest data on a regular basis
Proposal 78  Caribou/Units 24, 26B, 26C

PROPOSAL 78

Eliminate the requirement for North Slope residents to obtain the RC907 permit and general season caribou harvest tickets to hunt caribou and report their harvest in a portion of Units 23 & 24B, and Units 26A, B, & C.

Submitted by: North Slope Fish & Game AC

Department Recommendation: Neutral

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Proposal 82  AVSMA

Establish, in state regulation, the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area in Unit 25A, open a new resident and non-resident drawing permit hunt, and change the bag limit for a portion of RS595 (additional regulatory components)

Proposed By: Public

Department Recommendation: Support to provide additional opportunity, Neutral regarding allocative aspects
**Proposal 82 AVSMA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 25A – Sheep, proposed changes</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Resident</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>East of Middle Fork of Chandalar River, excluding the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One ram with full-curl horn or larger. Youth hunt only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Resident</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Arctic Village Sheep Management Area</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One ram with full-curl horn or larger</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Resident</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>[THREE SHEEP] <strong>One ram with full-curl horn or larger by permit.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>RS595</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Nonresident</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One ram with full-curl horn or larger every 4 regulatory years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Resident</strong></td>
</tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One ram with full-curl horn or larger every 4 regulatory years by permit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DSXXX</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Resident</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Arctic Village Sheep Management Area</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>RS595</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Non-resident</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>One ram with full-curl horn or larger every 4 regulatory years by permit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>DSXXX</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Oct. 1 – Apr. 30
- 3 sheep
- Resident only
- No aircraft
- No motorized access from Dalton Hwy
- Closed except for federally qualified subsistence users

**RS595 Hunt Area**

**Arctic Village Sheep Management Area (AVSMA)**
### Proposal 82  AVSMA

#### Background

- AVSMA created in 1991 by Federal Subsistence Board.
- Closed to sheep hunting except by federally qualified subsistence hunters.
- AVSMA expanded to the north in 1995 to include Red Sheep and Cane creeks.
- Federal closure reenacted for Red Sheep and Cane creeks in 2012, remained that way since.
Proposal 82  AVSMA

**AVSMA Reported Harvest**

- USFWS Office of Subsistence Management report:
  - 33 federal permits issued from 1995 – 2017
  - Average = 1.4 permits/year
  - Total of 8 sheep harvested
  - Average = 0.3 sheep harvested/year
### Proposal 82  AVSMA

#### General Season Red Sheep and Cane Creeks Reported Harvest

- 2006 – 2011 general season harvest ticket
  - 44 total hunters
  - Average = 6.7 hunters/year
  - 27 total sheep harvested
  - Average = 4.5 sheep harvested/year
  - Some harvest likely occurred outside of Red Sheep and Cane Creeks

### Proposal 82  AVSMA

#### RS595 Reported Harvest

- 2009 – 2018 RS595 permit hunt:
  - 111 total permits issued
  - Average = 11 permits/year
  - Average = 4 hunters/year
  - Average = 3 sheep harvested/year
  - 96% of harvest occurs in Unit 26C
  - 100% of harvest in March and April by snowmachine
  - Unreported harvest likely occurs
Sheep Survey Areas and Density Estimates

Sheep abundance based on extrapolation from surveys

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Density (sheep/mi²)</th>
<th>Abundance (total sheep)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Units 23, 24, 25A, and 26</td>
<td>0.66–0.86 sheep/mi²</td>
<td>13,600–19,500 sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RS595 hunt area</td>
<td>0.67–0.86 sheep/mi²</td>
<td>6,200–8,200 sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RS595 hunt area (that portion of 25A only)</td>
<td>0.67–0.86 sheep/mi²</td>
<td>3,700–4,700 sheep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AVSMA</td>
<td>0.67 sheep/mi²</td>
<td>960 sheep</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Proposal 82  AVSMA

**C&T, ANS, and Harvestable Surplus**

- Units 23, 24, 25A, and 26 have a positive finding for customary and traditional use of sheep
- Combined ANS of 75 – 125 Sheep = less than 1% of population
- Biologically sustainable

### Proposal 82  AVSMA

**Department Comments**

- No biological concern with any regulatory components
- A reduction in opportunity for the Unit 25A portion of RS595
- Evaluate whether reasonable opportunity for subsistence uses still exists?
Department Comments Cont.

- Would change the bag limit for a portion of the RS595 hunt area - may warrant two separate registration hunts

- 5AAC 92.003(i) Department approved hunter ethics course in a portion of the AVSMA (Red Sheep and Cane creeks)
  - maintain
  - modify
  - eliminate

- Any regulatory changes made by this board regarding the AVSMA could not be implemented until the FSB rescinded the federal closure
Proposal 82  AVSMA

Establish, in state regulation, the Arctic Village Sheep Management Area in Unit 25A, open a new resident and non-resident drawing permit hunt, and change the bag limit for a portion of RS595 (additional regulatory components)

Proposed By: Public

Department Recommendation: Support to provide additional opportunity, Neutral regarding allocative aspects

Proposal 83  RS595 bag limit change

Modify the bag limit for sheep in the Unit 26C portion of the RS595 hunt area from 3 any sheep to 3 any sheep, however, rams must be ¾ curl horn or smaller, excluding rams with both horns broken.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: Neutral
RS595

- Oct. 1 – Apr. 30
- 3 sheep
- Resident only
- No aircraft
- No motorized access from Dalton Hwy

Proposal 83
RS595 bag limit change

Kaktovik

RS595 Hunt Area

Unit 26B
Unit 26D
Unit 26
Unit 26A
Unit 25B
Unit 25D
Unit 25A
Unit 24A
Arctic Village
Proposal 83  RS595 bag limit change

**Survey Data**

- No surveys conducted to estimate sheep abundance in the RS595 hunt area or at the subunit level
- Sheep surveys (USFWS) in portions of Unit 25A and 26C indicates a sheep density of 0.67 – 0.87 sheep/mi²
- Extrapolated abundance of 3,500 sheep in Unit 26C and 6,200 – 8,200 sheep in the RS595 hunt area

**Harvest Data**

- General Season, Unit 26C, 2009 – 2018:
  - 1,211 hunters harvested 650 sheep
  - Average 121 hunters/year
  - Average harvest = 65 sheep/year
  - Average success rate of 54%
## Proposal 83  RS595 bag limit change

### Harvest Data

- **RS595 Hunt, 2009 – 2018:**
  - Average 11 permits issued/year (range 6 – 16)
  - Average 4 hunters/year (range 1 – 8)
  - Average harvest = 3 sheep/year (range 0 – 7)
  - 93% of harvest = rams
  - Average age of harvested rams = 8.1 (range 3 – 11)
  - 96% of harvest occurs in Unit 26C
  - 100% of harvest occurs in March and April
  - 100% of transportation = snowmachine
  - Unreported harvest likely occurs by local residents

### Customary and Traditional Use

- Units 23, 24, 25A, and 26 have a positive finding for customary and traditional use of sheep

- Combined amounts necessary for subsistence uses of 75 – 125 sheep
### Proposal 83  RS595 bag limit change

#### Department Comments

- No biological concerns with current harvest levels or those that would be expected from a modified bag limit
- Allocative
- Reduction in opportunity, Board may wish to consider if reasonable opportunity is still provided
- Current harvest less than 1% of extrapolated sheep abundance

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#### Proposal 83  RS595 bag limit change

#### Department Comments

- Would change the bag limit for a portion of the RS595 hunt area
- May warrant two separate registration hunts, or consider a change to the bag limit for the entire RS595 hunt area to maintain consistency
Proposal 83  RS595 bag limit change

Modify the bag limit for sheep in the Unit 26C portion of the RS595 hunt area from 3 any sheep to 3 any sheep, however, rams must be ¾ curl horn or smaller, excluding rams with both horns broken.

Proposed by: Public

Department Recommendation: Neutral

Proposal 84  DHCMA Sheep Season Ext.


Proposed By: Public

Department Recommendation: Support to provide additional opportunity, Neutral regarding allocation aspects
Survey Data

- No surveys conducted to estimate sheep abundance in the DHCMA

- Sheep surveys in other portions of the Brooks Range indicate sheep abundance fluctuates annually, but relatively stable

- Most recent surveys suggest sheep densities of 0.66 – 0.88 sheep/mi²
Proposal 84  DHCMA Sheep Season Ext.

**Harvest Data**

- Harvest with DHCMA unknown

- Units 24A, 25A, and 26B harvest, 2008 – 2018:
  - Total = 1,278 sheep
  - Average = 116 sheep/year
  - % harvest by bow and arrow = 3%
  - Average harvest by bow and arrow = 4 sheep/year

- Likely fewer than 4 sheep harvested annually in DHCMA

**Department Comments**

- No biological concerns

- Additional harvest expected to be minimal and sustainable

- Season extension occurs prior to breeding (rut)
### Proposal 84  DHCMA Sheep Season Ext.

Extend the Dall sheep hunting season in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area within Units 24A, 25A, and 26B from: 
Aug. 10 – Sept. 20 **to** Aug. 10 – Oct 5.

**Proposed By:** Public

**Department Recommendation:**  **Support** to provide additional opportunity,  **Neutral** regarding allocation aspects

### Proposal 85  DHCMA Registration Hunt

Create an archery-only registration sheep hunt in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area during Sept. 20 – Oct. 5 **or** during Sept. 25 – Oct 5.

**Proposed By:** Public

**Department Recommendation:**  **Support** to provide additional opportunity,  **Neutral** regarding allocation aspect
No surveys conducted to estimate sheep abundance in the DHCMA

Sheep surveys in other portions of the Brooks Range indicates sheep abundance fluctuates annually, but relatively stable

Most recent surveys suggest sheep densities of 0.66 – 0.87 sheep/mi²
### Proposal 85 | DHCMA Registration Hunt

#### Harvest Data

- Harvest with DHCMA unknown

- Units 24A, 25A, and 26B harvest, 2008 – 2018:
  - Total = 1,278 sheep
  - Average = 116 sheep/year
  - % harvest by bow and arrow = 3%
  - Average harvest by bow and arrow = 4 sheep/year

- Likely fewer than 4 sheep harvested annually in DHCMA

#### Department Comments

- No biological concerns

- Additional harvest expected to be minimal and sustainable

- Season extension occurs prior to breeding (rut)

- A registration hunt would create a requirement that is unnecessary (general harvest ticket is adequate)
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<tr>
<th>Proposal 85</th>
<th>DHCMA Registration Hunt</th>
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Create an archery-only registration sheep hunt in the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area during Sept. 20 – Oct. 5 or during Sept. 25 – Oct 5.

Proposed By: Public

Department Recommendation: **Support** to provide additional opportunity, **Neutral** regarding allocation aspect