

97-116-BOG

Findings of the Alaska Board of Game on Dall Sheep Management  
in the Western Brooks Range

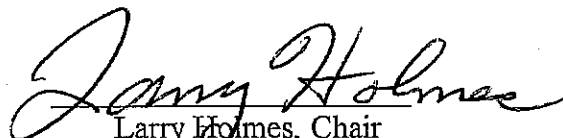
The Board of Game considered information on the management and use of Dall sheep in the western Brooks Range contained in reports from the Division of Wildlife Conservation, the Division of Subsistence and public testimony at its meeting in Nome, Alaska. Based on this information the Board makes the following findings.

1. Dall sheep in the western Brooks Range occur in three populations: the DeLong Mountains in Game Management Units 23 and 26A west of the Etivluk River, the Baird Mountains in Game Management Unit 23 and the Schwatka Mountains in Game Management Units 23, 24 and 26A east of the Etivluk River.
2. The amount necessary to provide for subsistence use of Dall sheep in the DeLong Mountains is 0 to 9 sheep per year.
3. The amount necessary to provide for subsistence use of Dall sheep in the Baird Mountains is 18 to 47 sheep per year.
4. The amount necessary to provide for subsistence use of Dall sheep in Game Management Unit 23 and Game Management Unit 26A portions of the Schwatka Mountains is 2 to 4 sheep per year.
5. The harvest of Dall sheep in the western Brooks Range should be allocated according to the following model, developed for game populations with Customary and Traditional (C&T) uses and a variable harvestable surplus:
  - a. If the harvestable surplus is less than the minimum necessary for subsistence purposes, the department may issue Tier II subsistence permits and apply conditions to the hunt consistent with the C&T use pattern.
  - b. If the harvestable surplus is between the minimum and maximum necessary for subsistence purposes, the department may issue subsistence registration permits and apply conditions to the hunt consistent with the C&T use pattern.
6. Applying this model to sheep of the Western Brooks Range results in the following determinations:
  - a. The harvestable surplus of sheep in the DeLong and Baird Mountains is variable. When the harvestable surplus is sufficient to allow subsistence harvest in either population, the department may issue subsistence registration permits. The conditions of the permits shall prohibit use of aircraft. (In deference to the request of subsistence users, no harvest will be allowed if the harvestable surplus is below the minimum necessary for subsistence.)

b. Because the harvestable surplus in the Schwatka Mountains substantially exceeds the demand for both C&T use and general hunting, the department may allow general hunting under authority of harvest tickets.

c. When the harvestable surplus in these populations is greater than the maximum amount necessary to provide for subsistence use, the department may issue general drawing permits to harvest the number of sheep in excess of that amount.

Date: 11/16/97  
Anchorage, Alaska

  
Larry Holmes, Chair  
Alaska Board of Game

Vote: 6-0-1  
Absent: Fleagle