

**ALASKA BOARD OF GAME**  
**Committee on Dall Sheep Management**  
**Teleconference November 2, 2015**  
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**From:** [Birch Yuknis](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Dall Sheep working group request  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 21, 2015 4:16:25 PM

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Dear Slrs,

I am writing to request placement on the Dall Sheep Management Working Group.

I am a life long Alaskan. (Minus a few years out of State for higher education) I have been an avid outdoorsperson since birth. My father was a Master Guide until 1989 when he retired from guiding. As a youth I helped him on many guided and personal sheep hunts. I feel I have seen the Sheep Management issue from both the commercial side and the non-commercial side. I have hunted sheep personally for over 30 years. I have also taken part in the subsistence sheep hunt (RS389). This subsistence hunt allowed me to spend time in a rural village and see how important sheep can be as a subsistence animal. I have hunted the Alaska Range, The Brooks Range and the Wrangell's. I also keep up on the various periodicals that come out related to North American sheep. I am a life member in FNAWS. I was an Alaska member until the Flory incident. Other associations I have or am a member of are Grand Slam/Ovis, Ruffed Grouse Society, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Safari Club International and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. As you can see I have a strong conservation background being a part of all of these organizations.

I am a dentist in the Mat-Su Valley. Therefore I see a large slice of the population with their different viewpoints and opinions. I am not afraid to talk to my patients about conservation issues and get a feel for the pulse of the people. My undergraduate bachelor's degree was in Communication with an emphasis on Small Group Communication. This has helped me greatly in my personal and work life. I think it would be an asset for a group like this as well. My job has also afforded me the opportunity to have time off to spend the days in the field in various parts of the State to observe and or hunt Dall Sheep. This will also allow me the time to spend on a Working Group such as this.

Last year is when I started attending Mat-Su AC meetings and listening in to the BOG meetings. I have submitted some comments on various Dall Sheep proposals as well this last year. I did attend the February 2015 Dall Sheep "pre" meeting as well. I have read or attended all the Dall Sheep presentations the BOG has made available or published this last year.

I have seen many changes to the State in my lifetime. In the 1980's the Dall sheep numbers were very high in the Brook's Range and now they are closing parts of the Range to non-subsistence hunting. The State lost a lot of Dall Sheep non-subsistence hunting opportunity with the creation of several national Parks. I think it is awesome to drive down the Seward Hiway and see Dall sheep from the road.

I feel I am an ideal candidate with my knowledge of Dall sheep issues in our State and with my conservation background and with my ability to work to a common goal in a small group setting.

Thank you for your time,

Birch Yuknis



# Taiga Resources Conservation

*a management and consulting firm specializing in resource industry support. We provide individual and community assistance in understanding, developing and implementing based initiatives that will help sustain social/cultural atmospheres, fish, wildlife, land/water habitats, and industry developments within them.*



PC002  
1 of 2

HC60 Box 299C Copper Center, Alaska USA 99573 Phone: 1.907.822.3410  
Email: taigaresources@gmail.com Web: www.taigaresources.com

October 23, 2015  
Lower Tonsina, Alaska

Dear Alaska Board of Game's Committee on Dall Sheep Management,  
Please receive this letter as an application to serve within this important and much needed working group. My past related to Dall's sheep and wild sheep management spans nearly my entire lifetime.

From my earliest years the heartbeats of the wildthings in the wild places captured purpose in life. This has not changed with time. Any and or all written works on wild sheep and wild sheep management have been consumed whenever found and added to my personal knowledge and library. My three sons were raised within a rural Alaska homeschool environment where several of these historical written works became part of their school curriculum base. This unique circumstance was added to by daily ability to witness wild sheep and discuss management and stewardship concepts. It was furthered by the boys being able to share this education with visiting sportsmen from around the world at the earliest ages possible..

As a conservationist and professional guide who has studied and documented wild sheep in Alaska for over thirty years, many of which have been spent in year around observation, I have found that much of the published historical written works authored by recognized scientists, hunters and conservationists, are not in keeping with the summary of my tenure gathered knowledge.

Please note that based on tis historic knowledge and passion to address prudent stewardship of Alaska's wildlife with our wild sheep at the foremost of this dedication; that I have officially served within the following appointments:

1. 1984-1985, McGrath Fish and Game Advisory Committee (member at large).
2. 2001-2002, Alaska Professional Hunters Association Board of Directors.
3. 2002- 2012, Executive Director Alaska Professional Hunters Association/ Governmental Affairs Director.
4. 2003-2010, Member, Foundation for North American Wild Sheep/Wild Sheep Foundation National Chapter, Guide and Outfitter Committee.
5. 2003 – current, Member, Wrangell Saint Elias National Park Subsistence Resource Commission by the appointments of several governors'.
6. 2010-2015 Member, White House Council on Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation by joint appointments from the Secretaries of Agriculture and Interior.



As you may note, the above service has provided a spectrum of understanding of effective wildlife conservation in Alaska. In addition to the above, Alaska years of active involvement within her mining, forestry, energy, agriculture and specialty contracting arenas and the cross sectioning of wildlife conservation within them.

When the above and ongoing works are combined with my years spent in the field, it has brought about a certain depth of education regarding wildlife conservation and wildlife stewardship. It is important to understand that based upon this education, I have found that to be most effective in addressing needed wildlife conservation measures, that the development of unique working groups exactly like this one, working as a team, provide for the best long term conservation successes. It is my humble hope that you will consider this application to assist you and Alaska's wild sheep in the affirmative.

Most Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert Fithian".

Robert Fithian  
(Founder and CEO)



**From:** [Brad Sparks](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\); Brad Sparks](#)  
**Subject:** Dall sheep working group letter of interest  
**Date:** Friday, October 16, 2015 11:33:50 PM

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I would like to serve on the dall sheep working group that is being formed. I moved to Alaska to hunt and have been a resident of the state of Alaska for 8 years. I spend at least 6 weeks a year hunting here in Alaska for multiple species, but usually annually for sheep.

Several years ago while living in Kentucky, I served on the Rocky Mountain Elk Committee board during the elk restoration time period. Since moving to Alaska, I have been to several banquets for different organizations, but I have not been actively involved in any of them. I have attended advisory council meetings but have never served on any of the boards.

I have a lack of connections to any organization, but I am connected to several resident hunters in the state. Every fall I help to host a "beast feast" and every spring a "permit party" where 50 or more resident hunters gather.

Please consider my willingness and ability to serve on this working group.

Thanks.

Brad Sparks

Submitted By  
brian bagley  
Submitted On  
10/19/2015 4:39:16 PM  
Affiliation  
none



PC004  
1 of 1

I am requesting to participate in the dall sheep working group.

I have been dall sheep hunting with my wife every year for the past 10 years. I have attended meetings sponsored by AK Departement of Fish and Game and AK Board of Game and am familiar with current dall sheep topics. I am not affiliated with any organizations. My primary concern is for the sheep resource. My secondary concern would be for the fair allocation of the harvestable surplus.

I believe to come up with a solution to the current dall sheep management issues requires the input/expertise of many different people and interests.

I am available for participation in meetings held in Anchorage or the valley.

I have participated in the board of game process by testifying in both the 2015 Wasilla and Anchorage board of game meetings.

Thanks for your consideration,

Brian Bagley



**From:** [Brian Richards](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** request to serve on sheep management working group  
**Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 11:31:23 AM

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Dear Sirs,

I am writing to submit my name for consideration as a public member of the working group for the Alaska Board of Game Committee on Dall sheep management.

As a local citizen who has hunted Dall sheep personally for 9 years, I have a keen interest in Dall sheep management, and have a strong vested interest in the long-term viability of Alaskan sheep herds. I have never previously participated in any Advisory Committee or Board of Game processes in the past, but would love to be a part of this important discussion. I believe that with Dall sheep populations on the decline state wide, it is important that wise policies for game management be instituted as soon as possible.

As a local sporting goods store owner and operator I have had the opportunity over the years to make connections with a wide range of Alaskan citizens with various opinions on Dall sheep management, including guides, local hunters, air transport pilots, and outfitters, as well as non-resident hunters and guides, and feel that I understand their perspective on sheep management and their frustrations with current policies and legislation. This extended base of associations has allowed me to hear many sides of the Dall sheep management debate, and has given me a balanced perspective on the many difficulties in managing this magnificent animal in ways that can benefit all interested parties while ensuring the long-term viability of the sheep herds.

In addition to my professional interest in Dall sheep inherent in my participation in the sporting goods industry, I am a member of Safari Club International, Pope and Young Club, and FNAWS.

As a business owner my hours are flexible, and I should have no difficulty in planning my schedule to attend the required meetings and engage in whatever other time is needed in review and research outside of the meetings themselves.

Thank you for your consideration of my request to be a member of this committee.

Brian W. Richards



**From:** [Sundly Casey W](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Dall sheep working group letter of interest  
**Date:** Monday, October 19, 2015 2:13:29 PM

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Good afternoon,

I received your email asking for individuals interested in being a part of your sheep management working group. I would like to be a part of this committee. I have been in Alaska just over a year and I am learning about the wildlife and hunting in this state. I am currently a participant in the Healing Waters Program for Disabled Veterans. I was in the US Marine Corps Infantry for 8 years with 3 combat deployments and I am 90% service- connected, this might be as close as I can get to these animals. I am very interested in hunting and conservation of game animals in Alaska. I currently work as a secretary at a government job. I am familiar with taking notes, taking minutes, and dealing with paperwork to facilitate working groups and business meetings. I feel I could be very helpful to your organization in that respect. I am willing and able to participate in the 2-3 weekend meetings this winter. I think this would be a great opportunity to get involved helping my community and helping Alaska with game management.

Thank you for your time.

Casey Sundly

Submitted By  
Chris J Zwolinski  
Submitted On  
10/26/2015 9:35:48 AM  
Affiliation



PC007  
1 of 1

I am applying to participate in the dall sheep working group. My views would lean toward some sort of reasonable management of the Alaska dall sheep population that serves the best interests of the state and not necessarily commercial applications. In saying this, it should be noted that I am in fact a licensed master guide, and have worked as a guide for over 30 years. I own my own guiding business and am not a member of APHA, and believe that Alaskan wildlife should be managed in a responsible manner.

I have personally watched the population of sheep in the Brooks Range drop dramatically and feel the need for the state to make adjustments in order to maintain a healthy future.

I am not on any other boards and have no other affiliations with the state.



## Alaska Board of Game Sheep Management Sub-Committee

Additional requested information detailed from requests of sub-committee members for participation as a public member on the “working group”

This information is in addition to information provided in my original written request to be a public member of the working group. The Sub-committee, DFG, and the facilitator are in possession of my original written request.

I have participated in the Board of Game process and the Advisory Committee process by speaking and testifying on Dall sheep related proposals in both arenas. I have not submitted a sheep related proposal but have spoken to public and Board/Department submitted proposals.

During my tenure as a staff member representing the Alaska Department of Public Safety to the Alaska Board of Game, I have made recommendations to the Board of Game and Advisory committees on law enforcement concerns and enforceability of proposal language being considered by the Board. I have worked closely with the Board, Board attorney, agency staff, NGO's, and Board appointed working groups in their attempts to work through complex problems and diverse interests in order to pass a regulation that groups feel meet their needs.

I am associated with “The Alaska Falconers Association” and have submitted proposals and testified to the Board of Game on falconry issues. I am not a member of any of the clubs or organizations that were talked about during the 10/14/2015 sub-committee meeting in Anchorage.

I can participate in all weekend meetings

Thank you,

David Loring



August 2, 2015

Bruce Dale, Director of Wildlife Conservation  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
333 Raspberry Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99518

Dear Director Dale,

The Board of Game in conjunction with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game will soon be making several decisions about the future of Dall sheep hunting and conservation in Alaska. One of the decisions to be made is whether or not there will be the establishment of a "Dall sheep working group".

It is clear from the proposals that have been submitted to the Board of Game over the past several years, testimony at board meetings, presentations and surveys, and prior board decisions that there are concerns with the current sheep management strategies.

If the board and the Department move forward with a "Dall sheep working group", I would like to offer my services as a public member of the working group.

I am aware that there needs to be a lot of work conducted by the department in many areas in the sheep management arena, especially in this period of low sheep numbers caused by winter and spring weather related incidences.

I am requesting this assignment because I have a desire to assist the Department, the Board of Game, and the resource users of the state of Alaska in developing a comprehensive Dall sheep management plan. I have the following qualifications that would make me a valuable asset to the proposed working group.

- I have a resource background starting with a degree in wildlife management and a thirty-five year career and commitment to wildlife management and resource users in the State of Alaska.
- I have a comprehensive background in wildlife law enforcement issues and have provided over twenty years of law enforcement advice to the Alaska Board of Game and the Alaska Big Game Commercial Services Board.
- I am an avid outdoorsman and have hunted Dall sheep through out the state for thirty-five years.



- I have read literature and attended sheep management conferences, lectures and presentations given to the Board of Game and advisory committees over the last twenty years.
- I continually interact with resident sheep hunters, non-resident sheep hunters, big game guides, and agency personnel in Interior and Northern Alaska in my profession as an air taxi pilot supporting their endeavors.
- In this interaction, I continually discuss sheep hunting issues including crowding, aircraft use, resident/non-resident interactions, and hunting violations with sheep hunters, big game guides, agency personnel, and non-consumptive resource users.
- I do not have membership ties to any of organizations or government agencies that are commenting on the merits of the proposed working group.

I believe that my past and continuing interest in Dall sheep management and hunting issues will make me a good pick to be on the proposed working group. If selected, I will be an active participant and I have the time and desire to read all literature, and attend all teleconferences and meetings.

Thank you for your consideration of my request to serve on the working group.

Sincerely

David Lorring

cc: Sam Cotten, ADF&G Commissioner.  
Ted Spraker, Alaska Board of Game Chairman.  
Board of Game Members



**From:** [don duncan](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Cc:** [Pilcher, Nissa R B \(DFG\)](#)  
**Subject:** Dall sheep working group letter of interest  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2015 3:25:03 PM

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Dear Board Members;

I am offering to sit on the BOG dall sheep management committee. I feel I would be of value due to my experience. I am a Master Big Game Guide who has not guided for sheep in 24 years and do not intend to in the future. I have attended or listened to many of the last few meetings concerning this subject. I have heard the guide's comments and complaints and I have heard the public mostly complain and I have heard the Boards comments. I have testified in front of the BOG and the BGCSB many times. As some of you know, my perspectives can be somewhat unique. I have the ability to look at things outside of the mainstream opinions. I am exceptionally good at predicting the outcome of various options or scenarios. I consider myself a resident hunter first and guide second but always a conservationist. I certainly believe that whatever "solutions" this committee comes up with, it will form a template to be used for other species in the future. As a resident hunter and guide, that concerns me more than what the committee actually does with sheep. 25 years ago, I chose not to make sheep guiding part of my operation plan. I knew then that sheep would be the first to get to this point. I thought it would have been much sooner. During that 25 years, I have thought of ways to fairly deal with most of the more contentious aspects of the problem.

The main problems have been identified. I am not sure all the options have been identified or discussed. I know some if not most of the ramifications for some options have been mentioned and discussed. The key to obtaining public support will be fairly weighing and strongly justifying the ramifications of the solution/s. That works best when the problem is looked at from all sides with a open mind. I can do that. Plus; I am a guide who has never been a member of APHA. I think this is very important. The vast majority of guides are not APHA members and they will see this as an APHA solution no matter what. Any thing the general public does not like, they will see it as benefiting the sheep guides.

Thank you for your consideration.

Smokey Don Duncan  
Master Guide #136

Submitted By  
Douglas Hoftiezer  
Submitted On  
10/19/2015 4:03:31 PM  
Affiliation



PC010  
1 of 1

I would like to be considered for an appointment to the Dall Sheep Management working group. I'm a relative newcomer to Alaska, having been here two years. I believe this will be an asset to the working group. It brings in new ideas and perspectives. Sheep hunting has always been a passion and I believe strongly in the importance of managing it for future generations.

I have never served on any Alaska board or advisory committees. In the past I have been an active member of the Wisconsin Taxidermy association as well as the National Taxidermy association. I'm also currently a member of the Alaska Trappers Association. I have been a licensed big game hunter for 36 years and spent many of those working with and mentoring youth hunters.

In closing, after arriving in Alaska I found it somewhat disturbing watching the sheep management arguments play out on social media and in general between hunting groups. 'A house divided cannot stand'

Submitted By  
Douglas Malone  
Submitted On  
10/22/2015 12:23:56 AM  
Affiliation



PC011  
1 of 1

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## 10-17-15

### REQUEST FOR CONSIDERATION FOR SHEEP WORKING GROUP

To the Alaska Board of Game:

Nate Turner, Dave Brown, Stosh Hoffman, Teresa Sager-Albaugh, and Dr Alistar Bath:

Hello, my name is Douglas Malone. Thank you for your time and for reaching out to the public for service. I'd like to express interest in and request your consideration for inclusion in the Dall sheep working group. I attended the last meeting in Spenard, felt some good energy in the room and found Dr. Bath to be an excellent moderator and leader. We spoke at length after the meeting. I think his methods will lead to a much better understanding between user groups and with this cohesiveness the Group can present to the Board of Game for consideration some articulate, sensible, attainable goals and comments.

Perhaps a bit of background will give you some idea of my level of experience relating to Dall sheep, and how deeply I care for the resource. Settling 25 years ago as a young traveler in the lower Wrangells and currently living outside of Homer, I have hunted and eaten sheep from all the ranges, particularly the Brooks, Wrangells, and Tanana uplands. What started as merely subsistence back then has turned into a passion that I await each year above all other pursuits in life. The time with friends in the mountains over the years pursuing those magnificent rams and eating fresh meat over a willow fire gives immeasurable satisfaction, lessons in fortitude and tenacity, and exhibits of human resilience. I believe we owe it to the next and subsequent generations to preserve this hunting opportunity and food source that has become tradition.

In the last few years, I've taken more interest and have been getting involved in the mechanism of game management: learning the Board process, proposals, going to meetings, serving on the Homer Advisory Committee (2013-current). We have more than a few avid sheep hunters in the Homer area, whose thoughts I can bring to the table, as well as the consensus of the Homer AC. Knowing a little about the board process will help me be a team player within the Working Group.

I have held a class A assistant guide license for about 10 years (current) and have guided sheep, brown bear, and moose. I don't use it very often, sporadically for new venues and extra money, but it has given me a sense of what the work and reward is really like to guide hunters. Bringing this knowledge, along with feedback from many personal friends and colleagues who guide full-time, will promote understanding and relating with Working Group members.

Other disclosure includes membership in the Alaska Airmans Association, AOPA, and NRA. I am not a member of any other organization with any connection to hunting and the outdoors. I did test gillnet fishing and subsistence survey work for ADFG 1998-2001 and have not been employed by the state since. I hold a pilots license, own an aircraft, and use it for finding solitude fishing and hunting, as well as work and other things.

I believe that if we can put all our information, concerns, and ideas on the table that this Working Group, with Dr. Bath's assistance, can reach a better and unified understanding of our sheep situation. With this in hand and still working together, we can build some common ground and offer sensible comment and recommendations to the BOG. I thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration as a participant in the Sheep Working Group.

Sincerely,  
Douglas Malone

25 October 2015

Alaska Board of Game  
Committee on Dall Sheep Management  
813 West Northern Lights Blvd.  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Members of the Committee:

Please accept my request to serve as a member of the public on the working group exploring solutions to Dall Sheep management in Alaska. My background is varied outside of game management issues, with outdoor hunting activities of all kinds being a recreational passion since arriving in Alaska in 1988.

My first career is that of an engineer, currently serving as a State of Alaska employee. For approximately half of my career, I have been involved in forest and road engineering in forested areas from Ketchikan to Fairbanks in direct support to the natural resource industry; sometimes a controversial industry with many stakeholders of different interests. Success within this arena has usually depended on the ability to bring the different stakeholders together to achieve economically viable, sustainable and environmentally sound resource extraction solutions to complex and challenging problems.

I also pursued a second career as a military officer having served in the Alaska Air National Guard for over 17 years where I continue to serve in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. 14 of those years were fulltime with deployments to locations worldwide in support of military engineering missions. In my military service, communication, collaboration and leadership skills have always been a keystone to successful operations where failure is never an option and outcomes must generate tangible results.

While not serving in some capacity as an engineer, I pursue my many passions of family and the outdoors for which sheep hunting is one. I would categorize myself as a moderate sheep hunter since the mid 90's, having myself shot four sheep and helped many others achieve their dreams of harvesting a mature ram. I have accessed sheep country off the road system by walking, by riverboat and by aircraft (both private and charter) in the Alaska, Chugach and Wrangell ranges. I believe I know what hunting sheep means to Alaskans, most of which have limited time and resources to take on the challenge of sheep hunting. My only involvement in public process to this point has been to comment on proposed sheep hunting regulations within the last year.

Additional activities and interests include fishing, skiing, and Scouting, where I am the Crew Advisor to Venture Crew 300, which I believe is the only all-girl Venture Crew in Alaska. I am also a private pilot with commercial privileges residing on one of the many private airstrips in the Mat-Su Valley and have flown in Alaska since 1990.

I look forward to the opportunity of serving with your working group and can be reached at [redacted]

Respectfully,

Edward M. Soto



**From:** [frank danford](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Sheep Committee  
**Date:** Monday, October 26, 2015 1:30:17 PM

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- 1) Yes , i have been to a lot of the meeting
- 2) Yes , i have some new ideas and concepts that i think will help every one ( sheep & hunters )
- 3) Yes , i am willing to help find Solutions , because i have studded Dall Sheep habitat for years and there way of life.
- 4) Yes , i can make any date that there is a meeting
- 5) i am a Guide here in Alaska and a big game hunter and a 49 Er
- 6) i have gone to the meeting's and Have written in with rule changes and i am a big sportier of the stop of low flying aircraft chasing sheep , now we need some one to enforce it.  
( no flying from Aug. 10 to Sept. 20Th )

Looking forward to helping out  
Frank Danford

Submitted By  
Gordon Bissell  
Submitted On  
10/26/2015 4:26:56 PM  
Affiliation



PC014  
1 of 1

I am submitting my name for consideration in regards to a sheep management working group. My back ground is as follows; Alaska Master Guide #122, extensive experience hunting sheep in Alaska over 35 years ,a family history of sheep hunting and guiding in the chugach and talkeetna mountains going back to the early 1900s, immediate family members are Alaska native Ahnta share holders, I have raised my family and numerous extended family members from both income and meat provided my sheep hunting activities and am actively teaching another generation the needed mental and physical skills nesessary to successfully hunt the mountain we call home.

Submitted By  
Ivan Clark  
Submitted On  
10/19/2015 5:28:10 PM  
Affiliation  
none



PC015  
1 of 1

Dear Vice-Chairman Turner and Committee members of the Sheep Management Working Group.

I would like to be considered as a member of the public for a position of the Sheep Management Working Group. I have been actively following the issues related to dall sheep for the last 6 years and have engaged the BOG in past meetings. I would represent myself and the general public sheep hunter. I am not affiliated, nor have I ever been a member of any special interest group or conservation organization. Further, I am not affiliated with any commercial interest group, or entity. I see myself as a "typical" sheep hunter, with limited means and ample desire. I hold no animosity towards any user group, and am always interested to understand all sides of an issue and come to a resolution which satisfies as many conflicts as possible.

I have spent countless hours reviewing data and analyzing from various points of interest. The knowledge I have garnered from reviewing this data, I believe would be helpful to the group. I have submitted information to the BOG in the past during meetings, as well as testified on my own behalf.

I have hunted sheep in Alaska for the last 6 years, and have been hunting for nearly 30. My grandfather was an avid sheep hunter, having taken many rams in BC and the L48.

I have time available to meet with the committee and BOG members as needed this winter

Sheep management is at a critical point in Alaska, and I would appreciate the opportunity to be part of the process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Ivan Clark



**From:** [Jacques Etcheverry](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Dall sheep working group letter of interest  
**Date:** Thursday, October 29, 2015 3:15:02 PM

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Good afternoon

My name is Jacques Etcheverry and I am interested in being on the sheep working group,

I'm a 32 yr old born and raised Alaskan resident. I have been sheep hunting since 1998. Since that time I've watched the sheep populations in the different ranges I hunt drop off. Especially rams

I've sent in proposals to the board of game for multiple different ideas to help build the sheep numbers back up and reduce hunter/guide conflict.

Alaska needs Guides, Resident hunters and Dall sheep.

Thank you for your time.

Sent from my iPhone



October 26, 2015

Dear Board of Game:

I would like to serve as a public member on the Alaska Board of Game's Committee on Dall Sheep Management to provide an Alaska resident hunter perspective to the committee. I attended the BOG Town Hall meetings a number of years ago that addressed changes to sheep management in the Chugach Mountains. The attendance and testimony was overwhelmingly from the professional guide perspective. I am not anti-guide, but feel a balance needs to be struck between the guiding industry and resident hunters when it comes to game management decisions.

### **SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS**

- 23 year Alaska resident
- Devoted sheep hunter. I don't hunt sheep every year but train and think sheep hunting all year long.
- Board member for the Wild Sheep Foundation (formerly Foundation for North American Wild Sheep), Alaska Chapter 1996 to 1999.
- Member of numerous professional and community boards and organizations. Familiar working in a committee environment. Examples: three year School board member and one year president for Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton catholic school, three year board member and one year president American Council Engineering Companies
- Willing to volunteer weekends and other time to see to the success of the committee
- Knowledgeable about the Alaska hunting community and willing to seek out additional perspectives and input to share with the committee
- Professional Engineer with ability to think openly and level headed

### **VIEWS ON DALL SHEEP MANAGEMNT**

- A strong healthy sheep population is the most important aspect of sheep management. Many management issues and conflicts are avoided with good numbers of sheep on the mountains.
- There are numerous goals in managing Alaska's sheep hunting. Some areas should be managed for trophy quality, while others managed for more hunting opportunity, and others that are managed for the hunting experience (limited access and hunting pressure). There isn't a one size fits all for the different management goals or for the different mountain ranges.
- Open to considering a permit system, including bonus or preference points as other states have. I'm not advocating for or against this, but it should be considered as part of Alaska's management strategy. I don't believe we are at the point the whole state needs to go to a limited system, but would like to see data and opinions from biologists regarding this.
- Need to consider how State and Federal lands are managed. Federal lands do have quotas on the number of professional guides and that does seem to balance hunting pressure between guided and resident hunters.
- Would like to see more surveys and study by ADF&G on sheep populations.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeffrey Baker".

Jeff Baker

Submitted By  
Joe Want  
Submitted On  
10/19/2015 11:57:53 AM  
Affiliation  
None



PC018  
1 of 1

**Request for inclusion on the Sheep Management Working Group**

**Past participation in Dall sheep issues includes:**

- 1) forty plus years of personally guiding for dall sheep**
- 2) direct involvement with developing materials and presentations for determining legality of sheep horns**
- 3) direct involvement with evaluating dall sheep harvest data for determining age structure of sheep harvest and horn growth patterns.**

**I will be able to meet those criteria outlined by the sheep committee for inclusion with this sheep working group.**

**Joe Want**

Additional information:

I am not a member of any organization. The last organization I belonged to was the US Marine Corps, 1960-66 (including reserve duty).

My involvement with the BOG during the past five years has been to present the results of findings resulting from the analyses of Dall sheep harvest data. These analyses, were and are specific to questions being considered by the BOG regarding Dall sheep issues. These data were also presented to the BGCSB and the Fairbanks AC.

Joe Want



**From:** [DEG\\_BOG.Comments \(DEG sponsored\)](#)  
**To:** Re: Board of Game Seeks Public Members to Serve on Sheep Management Working Group  
**Date:** Saturday, October 17, 2015 12:27:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)

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As a life long Alaskan resident and recreational hunter I have a strong interest in participating in the discussion around the future of sheep management, and would like to be considered as an independent participant in your sheep working group.

I currently have no memberships or affiliations with any organization or association. I am a former member of the Alaskan Airmen's Assoc. and have attended several functions put on by various organizations over the years.

During the Board of Game's action last spring to pass Prop 207 I began taking notice and realized my involvement in this important process may be required if there was any hope of my children enjoying the same privileges I have always enjoyed in this great state.

In the context of a working group, I would advocate for the do it yourself, recreational resident hunter and have many friends and connections made during the implementation of 207 from within that user group. I would speculate that a majority of Alaskan sheep hunters are as uninterested and uninvolved with the grinding gears of management policy as I used to be. I can help reach hundreds of those residents who, ultimately, will have to buy in to the decisions generated by this group.

Primarily, I believe the responsibility for our generation is to behave responsibly and make decisions that will promote a healthy and sustainable yield of sheep for the future generations of Alaskans. To that effort, I believe all options are on the table to be considered, and would like to think all participants in the working group can start from that strong common value.

Thank you for your consideration.

JR Gates

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Submitted By  
Karen  
Submitted On  
10/26/2015 10:37:00 AM  
Affiliation  
Self



PC020  
1 of 2

My name is Karen Gordon, and I live in Fairbanks. Because I'm retired, I have all the time necessary to commit to this process. Please consider this my application for inclusion on the sheep working group.

I've been involved in the sheep business for the last 15 years in terms of working toward more science-based sheep management via regulatory influence, interpretation of actual Department harvest data to form a descriptive picture of the status of Dall sheep populations and what that means for managers and consumptive users, and by strategic discussions with stakeholders on how to implement what those data tell us. For about ten years I was on the Board of the Alaska Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation, and for the last five years I have been on the Board of the National WSF. That experience combined with significant involvement with other community service or municipal NGOs gave me the opportunity to be familiar with a broader spectrum of opinions, issues, and vehicles for addressing shared problems in addition to knowing what political constraints dictated frameworks for solution options and outcomes.

I am not a sheep hunter, I am a sheep conservationist whose interest is in making sure that sheep numbers are sufficient to provide for sustained yield human use per the Constitutional mandate, and that managers appropriately use their own harvest data in managing sheep populations, something that has been overlooked in the past. Moose or caribou aren't of much interest to me, but Dall sheep have been important to me since my grandfather hung his mount in our home in 1964 which was taken in the Brooks Range.

By what I consider to be the most relevant of the criteria listed in the Anchorage October 12 meeting, here is how I see myself fitting in to the process should I be selected as a member of the sheep working group:

#### ***Ability to Represent Views of Key Sectors***

Because I'm not a sheep hunter, I can see perspectives outside the hunting community while recognizing the contribution hunters make to wildlife management in terms of the North American model of wildlife management where hunters fund conservation and wildlife management. Clearly, federal agencies have sheep on the land they manage, the numbers of which are significant, and understanding how ANILCA prescribes the priorities and directives for each Conservation Unit would be an asset on this working group. I bring an understanding of the interests that drive the guiding community and other NGOs such as SCI and WSF.

#### ***Existing State Policies and Legislative Expectations***

My interest in the factors affecting sheep biology, management, allocation, and regulatory issues have resulted in my researching the Constitution and statutes to understand the mandates and roles and responsibilities that apply to the Commissioner and the Board of Game. My familiarity with same could possibly be helpful to the working group.

#### ***Willing to Explore New Ways of Doing Things***

Opinions are all over the map about what the problems with sheep are or aren't. It will take imaginative and resourceful consideration to solve the current tangle of chaos regarding what to do about whatever the sheep issues are determined to be. Solutions in this emotionally-charged situation will certainly require out-of-the-box thinking.

#### ***Experience Working in Groups Toward Solutions and Expressed Interest in Being Part of Finding a Solution***

What is the point of a working group except to work toward solutions? That might be obvious, yet some would have their solutions thrown

into the fray before the most critical step of all occurs. That is, before one can work toward a solution, one must identify the problems, otherwise one ends up fixing what isn't broken. I've been on a variety of conservation, community or commissions where dealing with a wide variety of emotionally-laden issues with numerous opinions require. For any issue or problem, clear communication between the parties regarding potential options within given established parameters and choosing the solution(s) that best suited those stakeholders involved.



***Could Provide Value to Decision-making Bodies***

I have a reputation of bringing factual information regarding sheep to agency staff, legislators, and the administration, which makes me a potentially value-added asset to them. Had I not been researching management plans last December, which I distributed to David James, Ted Spraker and all the Board of Game members, many Advisory Committee members, and others, I doubt the Department would be working on updating them now.

***Scientific Advice***

With knowledge of population dynamics, environmental resistance, habitat preferences made by sheep, and a basic understanding of social biology as described by Val Geist, I believe I bring some added benefits to the group.

***Willing to look at Sheep First***

Sheep first? That seems obvious, doesn't it? What else would be first?

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Gordon

Submitted By  
Lance Kronberger  
Submitted On  
10/26/2015 9:47:08 PM  
Affiliation



PC021  
1 of 1

- **Your familiarity with Dall sheep hunting related topics**

*I have been an Alaskan hunting guide since 1999 and have guided sheep hunts in Alaska since 2000. I've personally guided over 50 dall sheep hunts and contracted over 100 guided dall sheep hunts. I have also guided the Alaska Dall Sheep Governor's tag in both TOK & 14C. I have guided sheep hunts in Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Montana, Texas, Idaho, Mexico, Alaska & Tajikistan. I have personal hunted sheep in Idaho, Alaska, & BC.*

- **Ability to explore new ideas and concepts**

*With my vast experience in sheep hunting in many various states and regions, I am always interested in how sheep management is done in other places. I am also always interested in management ideas that have been implemented and the results that were recieved long term.*

- **Willingness to work towards finding solutions within this process**

*I have signifigant time, energy, and financial commitment put into Alaska's Dall Sheep. This is evident in the amount of time I spent scouting sheep for my clients, along with my participation in the Wild Sheep Foundations Thin Horn Summit in BC, Canada last spring.*

- **Commitment to participate in the weekend meetings, the first of which is tentatively scheduled for December 5 and 6 in Anchorage**

*Weather permitting it should not be a problem to participate in the December 5 & 6 meeting. We make a significant amount of our family income guiding sheep hunters, so I will work very hard to make the weekend meetings, as long as my guiding schedule permits.*

- **Your past and present group affiliations, and**

*Affiliations: Wild Sheep Foundation (Life Member), Alaska Professional Hunters Association, Safari Club International, NRA, Grand Slam Club/Ovis, Idaho Outfitters and Guides Assiciation, Anchorage Baptist Temple*

- **Whether you have participated in Advisory Committee or Board of Game processes regarding Dall sheep issues in the past.**

*I have written many BOG proposals, some having relavence to sheep hunting in Alaska. I have also participated in many meeting with APHA regarding sheep BOG proposals.*



Levi Lewellyn

21 October 2015

Dear Board of Game Members,

The purpose of this letter is to request that you select me to serve on the Sheep Management Working Group. I have been hunting Dall Sheep in Alaska for three years in three different Alaskan Mountain Ranges. I study their habitat and the outside impacts on that habitat.

My abilities to explore new ideas and willingness to work toward solutions in wildlife management have always been a part of my life. I was raised on a Cattle Ranch in West Central Idaho and had to coordinate with local organizations and government agencies to ensure our ranch was not negatively impacting the Big Horn Sheep habitat. I was a fish and game reservist for five years in Idaho. As a volunteer I worked at least ten hours per month with biologists, wildlife enforcement officers, and the public affairs department. I recently retired from the US Army as an Engineer Officer. During my Military service it was imperative that I worked towards solutions with multiple different organizations and individuals. I earned undergraduate degrees from the University of Idaho in Animal Science and Range Management. I have served as a volunteer hunter's education instructor in Idaho and currently in Alaska. I am a new member of the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation which is a national conservation group. I have never served on a Board or Committee for Dall Sheep related topics.

My experiences and willingness to participate in meetings will be a great asset to this working group. I can be reached on my cell phone at 208-301-2849 or via email [levi.lewellyn@gmail.com](mailto:levi.lewellyn@gmail.com) .

Sincerely,  
Levi Lewellyn



**From:**  
**To:** [DEG, BOG Comments \(DEG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Dall sheep working group letter of interest  
**Date:** Monday, October 19, 2015 12:26:27 PM

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Board of Game,

My name is Lewis Bradley. I have been a resident of Alaska for 45 years and hunted sheep during that time. I served for a term on the BOG from 2008-2011 and have kept up with proposals and concerns on Dall sheep. I have concerns for our sheep populations and management direction. I would like to be considered as a participating member of the working group seeking solutions to the hunting of Dall sheep. I am not affiliated with any group with special interests. I realize there are many view points and stakeholders and am willing to consider all in an effort to come up with an equitable solution that is in the best interests of the resource. Thanks for your consideration.

Lewis Bradley

Submitted By  
Luke  
Submitted On  
10/26/2015 11:23:22 AM  
Affiliation



PC024  
1 of 1

To Whom it may Concern,

My name is Luke Graham and I would like to participate in the 2015 Dall sheep working group. I have been an Alaskan resident for the past 24 years and am very familiar with the present issues surrounding dall sheep and dall sheep hunting in Alaska. I have a degree in Biology from the University of Idaho and have a good understanding regarding how different variables play in impacting wildlife populations (hunting, weather, disease). Additionally, I have become very familiar over the last several years with the history of Alaska's dall sheep population. Furthermore, I am knowledgeable with the past history of dall sheep harvest throughout the different game management units in Alaska, as well as the different user groups which utilize dall sheep.

I have also gained experience from hunting in a multitude of other states and have a great understanding of the different concepts and processes which are implemented in the management of game populations throughout the lower 48. As a result of this and the fact that I am a young Alaskan resident (26) I feel I would be a great benefit to this working group since I am concerned about finding long term solutions to the issues currently facing dall sheep in Alaska. Likewise, I am very open to looking at new ideas and concepts which have been utilized in managing game populations in other states/countries which could potentially fix our current problems.

Finally, I have participated in the past two Board of Game meetings regarding dall sheep and have submitted both oral and written comments regarding proposals for Dall sheep management in Alaska. Furthermore, I have also submitted proposals of my own regarding the management of dall sheep hunting in Alaska, participated in the recent Dall sheep hunter survey and attended the presentation by Tom Lohuis on the results of that survey. If chosen for this working group without question I would be committed to attending and participating in all of the meetings for this working group. Although I am not a member of or have any affiliation with any user group regarding dall sheep, I feel this is a benefit as it allows me to remain impartial and unbiased on the issues surrounding dall sheep. I believe these facts show my commitment to finding longterm solutions for the different problems facing Alaska's dall sheep population and the variety of different user groups which utilize this important species.

Submitted By  
Matt Moran  
Submitted On  
10/19/2015 9:04:26 AM  
Affiliation  
USDA Forest Service



PC025  
1 of 1

I am submitting this request to be considered for the Sheep Management Working Group. As a biologist I am familiar with current hunting/management issues with Dall sheep. I am also familiar with surveying this species, current challenges with possible diseases from domestic livestock, possible future habitat changes from climate change, and multiple land management challenges. Because I have worked for multiple federal and state agencies and am a hunter myself I believe I understand multiple interests yet have the ability to explore new ideas and concepts and a willingness to work toward finding solutions to processes. I am a member of multiple affiliations but related to this topic I have been an active member of the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep for the last 11 years. I commit to being available for weekend meetings starting 5-6 Dec. I am familiar with the Board of Game process as well as the Subsistence Management process in the state of Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration.



**From:** [HighCountry GuideService](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Submission for Sheep Management Working Group  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 21, 2015 10:37:41 PM

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Hello,

After reviewing the press release from Board of Game and ADFG, I am interested in serving on the Sheep Management Working Group. Please consider this my written request to join and let me know if you need any further information.

My familiarity with Dall sheep hunting comes through my 15 years of experience guiding hunts and studying Dall sheep in Alaska. My strong desire to have sheep managed in a more sustainable way drives my interest in listening to and providing new ideas and concepts. I am very familiar with current regulations and management techniques/strategies. My personal interest and investment encourage my willingness to work towards finding solutions within this process. I am available to attend weekend meetings throughout this winter and specifically on December 5/6. I do have travel commitments in mid-march and may have to participate via email during that time.

Past and present group affiliations include Safari Club International, Wild Sheep Foundation, and Big Game Commercial Services (proctor registered guide exams). I am also a registered hunting guide for sheep here in Alaska. My experience and knowledge would be of value to this working group and provide a representative of an important use of Dall sheep.

To be able to help contribute to future management of Dall sheep in Alaska would be very gratifying. There are few days that go by where they have not peaked my interest and affected my livelihood.

Thanks for your time,  
Matt

**Matt Moskiewicz**  
**High Country Guide Service**





October 26 2015

Hello,

My name is Michael Litzen. I currently own and operate Litzen Guide and Flying Service. I have been in the business of guiding and transporting sheep hunters for 35 years. When I started in the business, there were sole and joint use guide areas and 7/8 curl sheep were legal. I was a newly registered guide in 1987 when the State's own guide area system was found to be unconstitutional and tossed out. I have been around and have seen many changes in sheep management and in the guide business and feel that I fully understand the challenges that the State of Alaska faces today with regards to sheep management.

In addition to my work as a guide and transporter, I have also been a game survey pilot for the ADF&G since 1987. With my work for the F&G, I have been involved with several sheep studies where I flew fixed wing aircraft to assist in captures for subsequent lambing survival studies with radio tracking. That work has taught me a lot about how to locate sheep with an aircraft and how they react to the aircraft itself. I have also done regular sheep counts in the Southcentral region for all my years with the F&G.

I served as a board member for APHA for 9 years but have been off the board for 3 years now. During that time I did work as an APHA board member to make recommendations the Alaska Board of Game. Although I respect the work that APHA has done, I did not always see things the same as all other board members and we faced some very difficult issues at the end of my last term. We however did in fact work through all of that with the help of a facilitator in a public meeting. I feel APHA ended up better off for it.

I believe with my vast experience with wildlife work, especially sheep, and my experience working through a board process, I can assist with the process of the sheep working group. I'm available and will be present in Anchorage for the December 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> meetings. This email should be considered as my official request to be a part of the working group.

Michael Litzen  
Litzen Guide Service



**BOG Sheep Management Working Group- Letter of Interest**

Committee Members,

As a 20+ year Alaska Resident and passionate hunter, Dall sheep management is very important to me. Some of my greatest life lessons have been learned on the mountain. I've hunted sheep in every mountain range in Alaska, and loved every minute of it. I am very familiar with the topic of Dall sheep in Alaska, some of my best friends are guide/outfitters, most of my friends are resident sheep hunters and most of my clients are sheep hunters. I am fortunate to be in a position that exposes me to a great many mountain hunters of all kinds and I've listened, learned and heard a lot over the years.

My family and I live in Barrow, AK, probably the largest subsistence village in the world. I'm a Life Member of SCI, GSCO, DSC, AKSCI, AKWSF, RMGA and an annual member of WSF. I attend outdoor/conservation conventions annually, give seminars about backpacking gear and support conservation. I am very lucky to be exposed to and close to both ends of the spectrum as it relates to subsistence and sport hunting.

Constantly getting perspective from guides, residents, outfitters, pilots, village hunters and guided hunters puts me in the unique position of understanding this multi-faceted issue we call sheep management. As an avid sheep hunter it is my intent to contribute and to explore every option available so that we all have an opportunity to see, hunt and harvest rams.

Never having served on an Advisory Board or Committee in the past I have no experience sitting at the table. However, I am well versed on sheep issues and I am willing to work towards better management and long term sustainability. Exploring new ideas and concepts is a must for this Working Group to be successful, so is an honest representation of the users and the facts. In the interest of full disclosure I would not be available for a December 5-6 meeting. I will be out Dec 1-17, 2015.

Thank you for the opportunity,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mike Monnin".

Mike Monnin

Submitted By  
Nancy Bale  
Submitted On  
10/24/2015 3:07:49 PM  
Affiliation



PC029  
1 of 1

I have attended live or listened online to the Board of Game discussions on formation of a sheep management working group, facilitated by Dr. Alistair Bath. I felt the discussions thoroughly explored the issues around selecting members of the working group, and their conclusion that a variety and diversity of perspectives should be included was correct. I heard that the members should include hunters, transporters, guides, resident users, state and federal managers, AC members, scientists and non-consumptive users. Others I've not identified could be included.

I concur that discussion of issues around sheep biology and management is important, when you see the conflicts and concerns expressed by hunters and non-hunters alike, reflected by the large quantity of proposals before the Board of Game.

I am available on weekends. Below, I list a few more details of my qualifications.

1. Alaska resident - 44 years
2. Education in science - BA, Zoology UC Berkeley 1967
3. Education in teaching - Credential, UC Berkeley, 1969
4. Nursing degree - BSN Nursing, UAA, 1996.
5. Teaching experience - Science, math, biology, California and Alaska (McGrath, Healy)
6. School nurse - Alaska Military Youth Academy, 1997-2004, Anchorage School District, 2005- present
7. Experience living in Alaska Bush - 1973-1993. Developed two federal homesites on the Tonzona River. Lived there in winter, and worked at Denali Park and Camp Denali in summer over these years. Familiar with hunting issues next to Denali Park. Familiar with sheep populations on the Tonzona and Swift Fork Rivers.
8. Board Member - Denali Citizens Council, local public advocacy organization. As a representative of that organization, have forwarded proposals and petitions to the Board of Game regarding wolf buffer zones at the northeast boundaries of Denali National Park.
9. Member - Federally chartered (2007) Denali Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council - a stakeholders group including pilots, residents, commercial aircraft companies and environmental groups charged with developing recommendations on aircraft activity over Denali National Park.

On the sheep working group, I would like to represent the perspective of non-consumptive users.. I am experienced in working toward solutions in diverse groups. Feel free to contact me with more questions.

Nancy Bale



**From:** [Ryan Schmidt](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Dall sheep working group letter of interest  
**Date:** Monday, October 19, 2015 1:52:46 PM

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Hi

I would like to be part of the Dall Sheep working group.

I have hunted sheep for 12 years now and hunted in almost every mountain range. I have seen the decline in numbers and would like to help solve the problem. I also have my assistant guide lic, and spend a lot of time studying sheep.

If you would like me to be part of the group let me know. If not thats ok as well, just glad to see something is finally being done.

Thanks

Ryan Schmidt



Submitted By  
Scott Kolstad  
Submitted On  
10/25/2015 11:26:20 PM  
Affiliation  
None

Dear Alaska Board of Game Members,

I am writing to request that you consider me for serving on the Sheep Management working group. I have been a resident of Alaska for over 17 years. I began hunting dall sheep in Alaska 13 years ago, and I'm very familiar with dall sheep hunting related topics. As a resident hunter and private pilot I have hunted dall sheep with other residents as well as my father who is a nonresident. Many of my sheep hunts have not used commercial big game services, however I have used transporter services in the past. I have hunted dall sheep in several areas across the state including the Chugach Mountains, Talkeetna Mountains, Alaska Range West, Alaska Range East, Western Brooks Range, and Central Brooks Range. Through my sheep hunting experiences in several different locations in the state I bring a broad perspective to the issues at hand.

I am interested in participating in the group to help find a solution that will improve dall sheep hunting in the future. I have an open mind and I'm willing to listen to the perspective of others, new ideas, evaluate data, and seek recommendations and solutions that are best for the sheep and not one particular user group.

My only previous participation in dall sheep related issues with an Advisory Committee or Board of Game process is a single public comment submitted to the Board earlier this year. I am available to participate in the meetings as proposed, and I have no past or present group affiliations to disclose.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Kolstad



**Scott Luber**

5918 East 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave  
Anchorage, AK 99504  
(907) 830-8733

scott@provingtrailadventures.com

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October 30, 2015

Board of Game  
Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game  
Boards Support Section  
P.O. Box 115526  
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: Sheep Working Group

Dear Members of the Board of Game:

I am requesting your consideration to serve on the upcoming sheep working group I have over a decade of dall sheep hunting experience and would be an excellent representative of the resident Alaskan sheep hunter. I am one of two hunters that has taken a ram from all seven major mountain ranges in Alaska on walk-in hunts (that I know of). While the road system in Alaska is limited, I have enjoyed hunting new places almost every year and have enjoyed good success. My hunts have occurred on a mix of state and federal lands.

I am also the owner of Proving Trail Adventures, a small home-based video production company that focuses on do it yourself Dall sheep hunting in Alaska. I started this company in 2012 after seeing the need within the sheep hunting community for more education and outreach, because better sheep hunters in the field means a better sheep hunting experience for everyone. The DIY instructional video has been very successful and as a result I have had the fortune to hear from many sheep hunters. Most of these stories have been encouraging recaps of the types of impacts hoped for: how hunters have made smart choices regarding ram legality and been inspired to push harder to be successful than they might have otherwise. Based on personal research, experience and input I have and continue to receive from the resident and non-resident sheep hunting community, I feel that I have a healthy perspective to bring to the working group.

I personally met with Alistair Bath on August 9<sup>th</sup> and attended the October 12<sup>th</sup> where my name was one of eight "residents" that were to be considered for being on the working group. It was mentioned that the list needed to be trimmed due to several of the persons on the list being close acquaintances with shared views. I would like to mention that I am not affiliated with nor do I know the other persons whose names were on the list.



As a resident hunter who has enjoyed sheep hunting all across the state and is the future of sheep hunting in Alaska, I would appreciate being on this working group as we look to consider the future of sheep hunting and sheep hunting opportunity in Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Scott Luber





To whom it may concern;

I would be interested in sitting on a panel to discuss and come up with solutions for the successful management of our Alaskan Dall Sheep populations. Not only do I feel that this is an impending issue that needs some serious attention from a hunters point of view, but from an Alaskans point of view that simply enjoys the fact that my wife and I can take trips into the mountains during the summer and fall months and know that there are healthy populations of sheep that we can find and watch in their natural environment for ourselves and many future generations.

I have been fortunate to have been able to pursue Rams for the past 21 years in a row (hopefully for a few more to come) and have both been personally successful many times, as well as helping my wife and other friends harvest Rams. Over the years it seems as if there is more competition in the field for these majestic animals, even though the statistics show just the opposite, according to the graphs and presentations from the survey conducted by DR. Todd Brinkman and conversations with Wayne Heimer. Maybe it is the world we live in, with instant internet access to forums and maps or better access to the field, but too many of my sheep hunting friends, co-workers and myself it seems to us as if there is much more competition and confrontations in the field concerning harvesting a Ram these days. Of course this leads to a poor experience in the field and in many circumstances not harvesting a nice Ram let alone seeing one.

Hunting Dall Sheep has become a major part of my life; it is something that I and a number of my good friends put a lot of effort and time into each and every year. August 10<sup>th</sup>, (actually the 8<sup>th</sup>, fly in day) is one of those special days of the year for us. With that being said, I would like to drop my name into the hat for serving as a public member on a working group to provide recommendations concerning our Dall Sheep management in Alaska.

Shawn Davis



MY NAME IS THOMAS HUMPHREY, I HAVE LIVED IN FAIRBANKS FOR THIRTEEN YEARS. ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS FOR MOVING HERE WAS THE SHEEP HUNTING, I HAVE HUNTED THE FOUR MAJOR RANGES WITH MIXED SUCCESS. I GUIDED FOR THREE YEARS IN THE ALASKA RANGE AND THE BROOKS. I HAVE BEEN AN OFF AGAIN ON AGAIN MEMBER OF THE WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION AND IT'S STATE CHAPTER. I ALSO HAVE BEEN OR STILL AM A MEMBER OF THE N.R.A. R.M.E.F., N.W.T.F., RUFFED GROUSE SOCIETY TO NAME A FEW. I HAVE BEEN A HUNTER-ED INSTRUCTOR FOR ALMOST TWENTY YEARS HERE AND IN MISSOURI. SHEEP HAVE ALWAYS FASCINATED ME, I HAVE ABOUT EVERY BOOK EVER WRITTEN ABOUT THEM, FROM GILCHRIST TO HEIMER I HAVE READ THEM ALL.

I WOULD LIKE TO THINK I COULD BRING THE COMMON HUNTER PERSPECTIVE TO THE DISCUSSION

THANK YOU,  
THOMAS P. HUMPHREY  
~~Thomas P. Humphrey~~  
907 347 6452  
UNCLETOM52@HOTMAIL.COM

Submitted By  
Tyler  
Submitted On  
10/25/2015 9:29:04 PM  
Affiliation  
none



PC035  
1 of 1

I moved up here at the age of 19 to sheep hunt. I have studied and hunted sheep for 13 out of the 15 years I have been here. I will continue to share, participate, volunteer, and advocate for wild sheep until I leave this earth. I would be honored to work with this group for wild sheep conservation and management. Commitment, listening, understanding, and leadership will be happily given. I have a humbled opinion and like to work with/for people. I own and operate 3 construction companies in Anchorage that employ 25 people. I have been in business for 13 years, which is also tied to my sheep passion. I am past president and past board member of Anchorage Home Builders Assoc. and I am involved in Associated General Contractors Assoc. as well. I am not and have not been involved with advisory committees or board of game involving sheep. Thank you for the opportunity and I look forward to serving. Respectfully, Tyler Loken.



**From:** [Wayne Heimer](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Dall sheep working group letter of interest  
**Date:** Saturday, October 24, 2015 9:53:42 AM

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## **STATEMENT OF DALL SHEEP WORKING GROUP INTEREST: WAYNE E. HEIMER**

### **INTENT:**

I would very much like to help clarify the issues attending Dall sheep management for the working group. I allege that I have something to offer on the subject because I've had the best opportunity in the history of our planet to learn about Dall sheep biology and management over the last 40+ years. I tried to maximize the opportunity. In addition to this direct experience, I have a reasonably broad view of wildlife management in Alaska, including familiarity with Alaska state policy as set forth in our constitution and statutes.

### **CONTEXT:**

The purpose of this working group has changed from rewriting management plans (the initial proposed solution to perceived problems) to making recommendations about "all things sheep." This means it's "open season" on recommendations, which are being represented as a "solution." However, this working group lacks the authority to do more than create a "wish list" of things participants would like to see. Presumably this "wish list" will influence the Department and Board of Game for decades to come.

The impetus for this group is based on the perception that sheep hunting is no longer a satisfactory experience. This perception is supportable only by anecdotal data. It cannot be supported by harvest statistics or logical calculations from harvest statistics. Many of the restrictive actions proposed appear to be outside the bounds of what Alaska state policy allows. In short, the issues seem primarily driven by emotion and special interest; and use of the working group is apparently predicated on the assumption that "averaged special interest" recommendations will more accurately reflect general public interest than traditional and statutorily defined input. This, even if the recommendations are outside the purview of the Board of Game or the Department.

This assumption appears, to me, to be driving the qualifications for the type of working group participant deemed desirable by the Board of Game subcommittee and the professional facilitator hired by the Department of Fish and Game.



Although I am unsettled by the underlying assumptions associated with the working group, I still think I have something to offer as mentioned above.

## **SO, WHAT AM I TO DO?**

I have done what I could to capture the criteria defining “the sorts of persons” considered desirable as participants in the working group. I shall now evaluate myself in the light of those criteria:

**People with the ability to represent views of key sectors:** My professional experience and long-term interest in Dall sheep management provide me an unusually broad perspective on the specific interests involved. Based on this experience, I am uniquely familiar with the development and evolution of Dall sheep management history from statehood to the present. I may not represent the special interests as they would like to be presented today, but I allege an understanding of this complex business, and have an established reputation of being a “sheep first” guy. *Rating on this criterion: Optimistic but uncertain.*

**People who understand/respect the federal viewpoint:** The traditional and productive relationship between the various states and the federal government was based on respect for the dichotomy that the feds own and manage land while the states own and manage wildlife. This has all changed from a cooperative arrangement to a contested one. I remain committed to the formerly productive arrangement, and am unable to cede management authority for Dall sheep to federal land managers.

The change from cooperation to confrontation has grandly complicated Dall sheep management in Alaska via ANILCA land withdrawals of sheep from availability to sheep hunters not recognized as suitable by the federal government and the extra-legal federal assertion of responsibility affects state management profoundly. Hence, the effects of federal involvement on state management of Dall sheep have been significant.

Federal management for subsistence typically carries the highest risk to Dall sheep of any management strategy, but affects a small percentage of Alaska’s sheep. Nevertheless, it is important. The National Park Service is particularly difficult to deal with because of its arbitrary traditional focus on the “stewardship” portion of NPS responsibility. In addition, the Refuge System is becoming increasingly difficult due to its emphasis on recently-defined “refuge values.” These agency orientations make these agencies particularly difficult to deal with when it comes to Dall sheep management, research, and allocation. I remain to be



convinced that the feds have any real credentials for participation in this sort of group. Their views of management are diametrically opposed to those of state...  
*Rating on this criterion: Low*

**People with experience working in groups toward solutions:** I had specialized training in working group theory when it began to evolve as a management tool in the Department. I've also participated in facilitated working groups including the Governor's transition team on the subsistence issue. I have a proven history of following the rules for groups where I've served. That said, I remain puzzled about the efficacy of a working group with a recently altered function (recommendations instead of management planning) and the language of "reaching a solution" where "the solution" amounts to a wish list generated by self-defined stakeholders. Nobody in Alaska's history has a stronger record of working with the sheep hunting public to meet documented hunter desires or solve actual problems with Dall sheep than I. *Rating on this criterion: High*

**People who are open-minded and willing to respect other views:** My record in testimony to the Board of Game and in the papers (even editorials) I have written should show I meet this criterion. I have NEVER told the Board of Game what it should do. I've suggested things for consideration and cautioned against some specific actions, but I've always been respectful of other views. That doesn't mean I'm a "pushover" for emotional or loudly-stated opinions that are not data-based and coupled with logical argument. I've always tried to be as polite as possible without "giving up" for the sake of existing dogma or political correctness. *Rating on this criterion: High if I commit.*

**People who express interest in being a part of finding a solution:** I'm intensely interested in real, practical solutions to clearly defined problems. I'm less interested in a prioritized "wish list" coming from special (even if diverse) interests that seems likely to fall outside of the Alaska Constitution and Statutes, as they presently exist. If Alaskans want basic allocation policies changed (which is what many proposed regulations would do), the legislature not the Board of Game is the appropriate venue. I remain to be convinced that this working group can, because of it's recently changed mandate, provide "a solution." *Rating on this criterion: Sketchy.*

**People connected to decision-making bodies:** I have been, I can, and I plan to continue connecting to decision-makers. I make no boast as to how influential I may be, but I'll remain connected. *Rating on this criterion: High.*

**People who understand subsistence interests:** Having been involved with local Dall sheep uses long before "subsistence" became a political issue, I understand the issues, the biology involved, and the human aspects related to subsistence issues. That may be why I was on the Governor's subsistence transition team regarding subsistence...which recommended getting



the feds out of subsistence management as a high priority. I also understand the constraints which must be recognized to sustain subsistence uses which often include harvest strategies. I also understand the federal and state statutes and processes better than most. Many of these are of relatively low significance to Dall sheep management, but the concepts involved are important. *Rating on this criterion: High.*

**Scientific expertise:** While scientific expertise seemed a low priority for the facilitator, I've had the best opportunity in human history to gather this expertise. I've tried to the best of my ability, and I think I can provide insight to whatever scientific perspective the group might need. I am committed to what we call the "Roosevelt Doctrine," that the best management is based on the best science. I believe we must manage based on what we know at present rather than on the basis of doubt or what we perceive might be OK. If we're on the wrong path biologically, we'll change paths. *Rating on this criterion: High.*

**People willing to explore new ways of doing things or new ideas:** Few, if any, in the history of Wildlife Conservation Division have been more willing, or taken greater risks, to explore new ways of doing things or new ideas than I. Many see me as "controversial" because of this "flaw." Still, we must recognize the fundamental constitutional and statutory policies (and yes, procedural) constraints that guide management and allocation in Alaska. Management in Alaska is not a "free program." The "compulsory figures" must be followed. *Rating on this criterion: High.*

Later in the meeting a couple of additional qualifications for members were posted. These included:

**A commitment not to subvert process toward a solution:** This is a curious qualification with extensive ramifications. On its face, this criterion seems to demand subservience to the group and facilitator. If unworkable or prohibited desires make their way onto the "wish list" via group consensus, what's a group member to do? It sounds like if there's a dissenting opinion, it will be deemed irrelevant and sequestered via this "loyalty oath." I have a higher loyalty to the Roosevelt Doctrine, and statutory process, which could prove problematic with respect to the definition of "subversion."

My training in "citizen's participation" management haunts me a little bit here. One technique for "assuring a favorable solution" on a working group calls for limiting the opportunity for dissent. This looks rather like a possibility here. This concern of mine is linked to what I perceive as the underlying assumption about the assessed validity of public input to the Board of Game. This issue was tangentially approached in the discussion of Advisory Committee input at the subcommittee's second meeting, but not clearly enough defined to convince me it is more practical than tactical. After all, commercial interests have driven this working group from the beginning. *Rating on this criterion: You decide.*



AND

**Willingness to make this working group the primary focus of one's life when meetings are called:** Along the way, the facilitator arbitrarily decided that meeting would have to be on weekends, thus eliminating any "people of faith" who may have weekend obligations associated with that faith. As I understand God, I believe He will forgive me for "missing church" sometimes, and so will the fellow believers to whom I am responsible. However, my obligations in this realm are certain to complicate my potential participation.

Additionally, the facilitator also described an almost superhuman workload during meetings. I realize there will also be "out of meeting" work. As interested and committed as I have been to Dall sheep management and hunting over the last 40 years, and as capable as I remain in focus on this work, I'm not sure I can meet the facilitator's demands. I don't know that anyone can honestly meet the facilitator's criteria for dedication.

Clearly, the Board subcommittee members have yet to meet the facilitator's standards. The whole subcommittee has yet to make a scheduled meeting, and future meetings already accommodate higher priority activities for at least one subcommittee member. These circumstances raise the question of uniform standards. Are working group members expected to meet higher standards than the leaders of the working group? I realize the facilitator may have overstated his arbitrarily defined commitment to the group mission but it sounds quite challenging. *Rating on this criterion: You decide.*

## **SUMMARY:**

So, while I think I could make a significant contribution to the working group, I offer this self-assessment of how I see myself meeting the qualifications for service on the working group as set forth by the facilitator and Board of Game subcommittee. I've tried to be candid in this self-evaluation. The decision to invite or not is obviously yours.

## **AN ALTERNATIVE?**

Maybe I'd serve the effort best as a "resource." I might fit as one of those "boring scientists" the facilitator said the group could call "into the room" *if* qualifying working group members feel they need more information than they have at hand. I certainly will make myself available to help as much as I can. Based on the criteria defined by the subcommittee and

facilitator, I can see I am clearly not a perfect working group candidate.



Wayne E. Heimer

Dall sheep biologist

**Application for Alaska Board of Game Dall Sheep working group.**

Dear Sirs,

I would like to submit my name for consideration on the Alaska Board of Game Dall Sheep working group. I am a life-long Alaska resident of 56 years, with a great deal of interest and experience with Dall Sheep hunting and related issues.

I am a firm believer in the current Board process for managing our wildlife resources, and am confident that a workable solution exists for sustainable harvest from a healthy sheep population. I would like to look at all reasonable options to maintain access to the resource for the broadest spectrum of users.

I would make myself available to attend meetings; and would look forward to participation in advancing workable solutions to this issue.

I have been or currently hold memberships with the NRA, SCI, Wild Sheep, United States Army Special Forces Association, and Matanuska Valley Sportsmen. I hold Alaska Master Guide license # 108, and have been actively engaged in hunting for sheep both personally and professionally for the past 35 years. I have never been a member of a Board of Game committee, but I have given personal testimony before the Board through the public hearing process many times over the years.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Woods".

Wayne W. Woods



**From:** [Zach Rinker](#)  
**To:** [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)  
**Subject:** Sheep Management Working Group  
**Date:** Thursday, October 22, 2015 10:08:20 AM

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Hello,

I recently saw the press release posted in regards to the BOG's interest in seeking public members to serve on the sheep management working group. I would be very interested in the opportunity. I actively hunt dall sheep every year and have been fortunate enough to harvest multiple animals over the past years. I am very interested in the long term management of one of the most amazing resources Alaska has to offer its residents and anybody looking to pursue these amazing animals. During the winter and summer months, I am actively looking for sheep and spending time in sheep country observing them in their environment and photographing them.

I see the first meeting has a tentative date of December 5th-6th, unfortunately that is the one weekend that I won't be able to attend as I already have plans. However, any meetings in the future, or if that particular meeting were to be rescheduled, I would be able to attend all meetings.

I would love to opportunity to help in any manner possible. Whether selected to be on the working group or not, I look forward to the BOG's decisions on best practices for Dall sheep management.

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Zach Rinker  
Palmer, AK