

**FEDERAL AID
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 25526
Juneau, AK 99802-5526

**DALL SHEEP
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NUMBER: AKW-4 Wildlife Restoration FY2015

PROJECT NUMBER: 6.0

PERIOD: 1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Dall Sheep and Factors Influencing Their Populations

REPORT DESCRIPTION: This performance report describes Dall sheep survey and inventory activities. Regionwide activities are listed before specific activities by game management unit.

**The Status of Alaska Dall Sheep and Factors Influencing Their Populations in
Region II**

Region wide Activities:

ACTIVITY : Draft a triennial Dall sheep management report.

Dall sheep management report was prepared and submitted for publication in 2014. Staff continued to collect information in preparation for drafting next report. The department is transitioning to a 5-year report and plan. The next report will be published in 2018.

ACTIVITY: Monitor the sheep harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

Information was collected during interviews with hunters and from information provided on harvest reports from permit hunts and general seasons. See area specific activities for additional information.

ACTIVITY: Provide information to state and federal regulatory processes on Dall sheep management. Collect data from sheep presented for sealing by hunters.

All full curl and some ewe sheep taken in Region II were presented to staff for measuring and sealing. In addition, approximately 25% of all rams taken in Alaska are sealed in Region II. See area specific activities for additional information. Staff routinely interact with federal staff and discuss management of Dall sheep relative to the respective

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regulatory systems. Staff prepared information for presentation to the state Board of Game meeting in 2015.

ACTIVITY: Survey selected sheep areas to determine distribution, sex and age.

Surveys were completed in selected hunt areas within individual GMUs. See Area specific activities.

Activities by Unit:

Units 7&15

ACTIVITY : Eight rams were taken during the general season by 69 hunters. No rams were taken by drawing permits.

ACTIVITY : Thirteen count areas were surveyed during the performance period. A total of 287 sheep were counted consisting of 52 rams, 186 ewe-like individuals, 28 unidentified adults, and 21 (7%) lambs. Sheep populations on the Kenai continue to show an overall declining trend.

Unit 14C

ACTIVITY : Sheep harvest was monitored through hunter harvest reports and sealing records. Harvest for GMU 14C was: 14 full curl rams and one ewe from permit hunts. Sheep horn size, sheep age and location of kill was collected from sheep horns and interviews with hunters at the time of sealing.

ACTIVITY : Sheep surveys were conducted on 15-16 July and 21-22 July 2014. A total of 1062 sheep were counted, including 306 rams, 586 ewes, and 170 (16%) lambs.

ACTIVITY : Research was ongoing in GMU 14C to determine productivity and mortality. Results will be reported under a separate project.

Submitted by: Gino Del Frate, Region II Management Coordinator

**The Status of Alaska Dall Sheep and Factors Influencing Their Populations in
Region III**

Region wide Activities:

1. Prepared 9 triennial sheep management reports.
2. Conducted 13 aerial surveys to monitor population trends.
3. Monitored harvest of 518 sheep through hunter contacts, surveys and harvest or permit reports and analyzed harvest data.
4. Provided Dall Sheep management information to state and federal regulatory processes: 17 Fish and Game Advisory Committees, 1 Board of Game, 3 federal Regional Advisory Councils and 1 federal Subsistence Board.

Prepared by: Doreen Parker-McNeil, Region III Management Coordinator

The Status of Alaska Dall Sheep and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region IV

Region wide Activities:

ACTIVITY: Prepare triennial sheep management reports.

The triennial sheep management report were drafted and submitted to the region for review.

ACTIVITY 1 & 2: Monitor sheep harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters. Collect data from sheep presented for sealing by hunters.

	Rams Harvested	Ewes Harvested	Unknown Sex Harvested
<i>Unit 11</i>	46	1	0
<i>Unit 13A</i>	19	0	0
<i>Unit 13B</i>	4	0	0
<i>Unit 13C</i>	2	0	0
<i>Unit 13D</i>	16	0	0
<i>Unit 13E</i>	9	0	0
<i>Unit 14A</i>	20	0	0
<i>Unit 14B</i>	7	0	1
<i>Unit 16B</i>	10	0	0

ACTIVITY 3: Survey selected sheep areas to determine distribution, sex and age.

2014 Summer Surveys	< Full Curl	Full Curl	Ewe- like	Lambs	Total
<i>Unit 13D CA 1</i>	2	0	22	3	27
<i>Unit 13D CA 2</i>	33	3	44	6	86
<i>Unit 13D CA 3</i>	62	7	120	23	212
<i>Unit 13D CA 4</i>	2	0	3	1	6
<i>Unit 13D CA 5</i>	4	0	7	1	12
<i>Unit 13D CA 7</i>	6	3	54	18	81
<i>Unit 13D CA 8</i>	15	3	1	0	19
<i>Unit 13D CA 9</i>	23	5	85	27	140
<i>Unit 13D CA 16</i>	16	0	45	3	64
<i>Unit 13D CA 17</i>	10	0	13	2	25
<i>Unit 13D CA 18</i>	37	4	38	9	88
<i>Unit 13D TCUA</i>	38	4	78	18	138

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<i>Unit 14A Cugach Mtns</i>	159	13	328	90	603
<i>Unit 14A&B Talkeetna Mtns</i>	31	5	66	21	159

Covers GMUs: 11, 13, 14, and 16B

Submitted by: Lem Butler, Region IV Regional Supervisor

**The Status of Alaska Dall Sheep and Factors Influencing Their Populations in
Region V**

Region wide Activities:

Provide information to state and federal regulatory processes on Dall sheep management.

Area management staff reviewed State and Federal regulatory proposals, attended regulatory process meetings, and presented Dall sheep information to the State Board of Game, State Fish and Game Advisory Committees, Federal Subsistence Board, and Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils. In March 2015, department staff provided information to the State Board of Game on an Agenda Change Request proposal to close all sheep seasons in Unit 23 and western Unit 26A; the ACR proposal was adopted by the board.

Mountain Range or Use Area Activities:

Baird Mountains:

Conduct aerial sex and age composition surveys in established count areas.

No surveys were scheduled during the reporting period.

Monitor the population by conducting minimum counts or generating population estimates with survey data.

No surveys were conducted this year due to conflicts with the schedule established by NPS.

Monitor harvests through, federal permit hunts, Community-based Harvest Assessments, public contacts and field observations.

All sheep hunts in the Baird Mountains in Units 23 and 26A were closed due to low populations.

Update population objectives in cooperation with the public and other agencies.

Sheep information was reported at Advisory Committee meetings and no hunting in Unit 23 and Unit 26A west of the Etivluk River drainage was recommended due to low populations and poor recruitment.

DeLong Mountains:

Conduct aerial sex and age composition surveys in established count areas.

No surveys were conducted in 2013.

Monitor the population by conducting minimum counts or generating population estimates with survey data.

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No additional population estimates have been attempted. Surveys initiated at the end of the reporting period indicate a sharp decline in the population due to winter icing conditions.

Monitor harvests through the harvest ticket system, permit hunts, Community-based Harvest Assessments, public contacts and field observations.

All sheep hunts in the De Long Mountains in Units 23 and 26A were closed due to low populations.

Update population objectives in cooperation with the public and other agencies.

Sheep information was reported at Advisory Committee meetings and no hunting in Unit 23 and Unit 26A west of the Etivluk River drainage was recommended due to low populations and poor recruitment.

Schwatka Mountains:

Monitor harvests through the harvest ticket system, permit hunts, Community-based Harvest Assessments, public contacts and field observations.

All sheep hunts in the Schwatka Mountains in Units 23 and 26A were closed due to low populations.

Submitted by: Peter Bente, Region V Management Coordinator