

ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. W-33-9

PROJECT NO.

PERIOD: July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide

PROJECT TITLE: The Status of Alaska Dall Sheep and Factors Influencing Their Populations in Region II

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

Region II

Regionwide:

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

Activity: 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. See area specific activities for additional information.

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.

Activity: A new full time position will work with area biologists to determine research needs in the region.

In addition to research commitments the Sheep biologist works with and advises Area staff with sheep related management decisions. In addition the biologist presented information regarding sheep ecology and mortality for southcentral populations during the March 2011 Board of Game meeting.

Activities by Unit:

Units 7&15

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor the sheep harvest through field observations, hunter harvest reports and contact with hunters.

Seven rams were taken during the general season with 103 people hunting. Three additional rams were taken on drawing permits.

ACTIVITY 2: Survey selected sheep areas to determine distribution, sex and age.
 Four count areas were surveyed resulting in the classification of 286 sheep. The composition was 97 rams, 156 ewes and small rams, and 33 lambs.

Unit 14C

ACTIVITY 1: Sheep harvest was monitored through hunter harvest reports and sealing records. Harvest for GMU 14C was: 13 full curl rams

ACTIVITY 2: Sheep horn size, sheep age and location of kill was collected from sheep horns at the time of sealing.

ACTIVITY 3: Sheep surveys were conducted. 55 full curl rams, 269 < full curl rams, 7 unclassified rams, 659 ewes, and 180 lambs were counted.

Submitted by: Gino Del Frate

Date: 2 September 2011

Region IV

Project Location: Game Management Units 11, 13, 14, and 16B

Regionwide:

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>	50	1	0
<i>Unit 13A</i>	17	0	0
<i>Unit 13B</i>	0	0	0
<i>Unit 13C</i>	1	0	0
<i>Unit 13D</i>	20	0	0
<i>Unit 13E</i>	12	0	0
<i>Unit 14A</i>	12	0	12
<i>Unit 14B</i>	3	0	3
<i>Unit 16B</i>	10	0	10

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

2010 Summer Surveys	< Full Curl	Full Curl	Ewe- like	Lambs	Total
Unit 11 CA 21	4	35	80	43	162
<i>Unit 13D</i> CA 1	0	0	74	35	109
<i>Unit 13D</i> CA 2	47	6	78	37	168

Dall Sheep S&I
FY11 Annual Performance Report

<i>Unit 13D CA 3</i>	61	17	233	99	410
<i>Unit 13D CA 5</i>	7	2	21	10	40
<i>Unit 14A</i>	153	14	357	102	626

No surveys were conducted in Unit 14B or 16B due to poor weather conditions and budget constraints.

ACTIVITY 4: A new full time position will work with area biologists to determine research needs. Region II hired a new sheep research biologist in 2009 to work with area biologists in Region II and Region IV.

Submitted by: Lem Butler, Region IV Management Coordinator

Region V

Regionwide Activities:

ACTIVITY 1: Prepare triennial regional Dall sheep management reports.

A Dall sheep management report was prepared during this reporting period.

ACTIVITY 2: 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.

Mountain Range or Use Area Activities:

Baird Mountains

ACTIVITY 1: Assist NPS with aerial surveys in established count areas as needed.

No surveys were scheduled during the reporting period. Surveys were conducted by NPS in July 2011 (after the reporting period) using a distance sampling technique but conflicting fieldwork prevented ADF&G involvement.

DeLong Mountains

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor harvests through the harvest ticket system, permit hunts, Community-based Harvest Assessments, public contacts and field observations.

Eleven drawing permits were issued to hunters for the fall 2010 hunting season; eventually all reported their activity; 6 rams were taken in the drawing hunt. Twenty hunters registered to hunt in Hunt RS388 and 5 sheep were taken (4 rams; 1 ewe). No harvest information was available from federal sheep hunts.

ACTIVITY 2: Assist NPS with aerial surveys as needed.

In 2010 department staff conducted four days of minimum count surveys in the Wulik Peaks portion of the De Long Mountains and found 326

Dall Sheep S&I
FY11 Annual Performance Report

sheep. Information from these surveys was shared with the NPS to contribute to their range-wide sheep database. Surveys were conducted by NPS in July 2011 (after the reporting period) using a distance sampling technique but conflicting fieldwork prevented ADF&G involvement.

ACTIVITY 3: Assess population and composition in years when NPS is not surveying the area. Surveys were focused in the Wulik Peaks to estimate the number of full-curl rams, an area that may experience intensive hunting pressure with new caps on the number of transporters that may fly into the Noatak National Preserve.

Schwatka Mountains

ACTIVITY 1: Monitor harvests through the harvest ticket system, permit hunts, community-based harvest assessments, public contacts and field observations.

No sheep were taken by registration permit hunt RS389 or in the general season hunt. No harvest information was available from federal sheep hunts.

Submitted by: Peter Bente, Survey and Inventory Coordinator, Region V