

ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY

STATE: Alaska

GRANT AND SEGMENT NO. W-33-11

PROJECT NO.: 6.0 Dall Sheep

PERIOD: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

PROJECT LOCATION: Statewide: Activities in Regions II, III, IV, and IV

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

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

Region II—Southcentral Alaska

Regionwide:

ACTIVITY : Draft a triennial Dall sheep management report.

Dall sheep management report was not due during this period. Staff continued to collect information in preparation for drafting next report.

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 tickets. 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. 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 regulatory systems. Staff attended the state Board of Game meeting during this reporting period.

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 83 hunters. Two additional rams were taken on drawing permits.

ACTIVITY : One count area (Crescent Lake) was surveyed during the performance period due to logistical and personnel constraints. Ninety-two sheep were classified during this survey with a composition of 40 rams, 42 ewes and small rams, and 10 lambs.

Unit 14C

ACTIVITY : Sheep harvest was monitored through hunter harvest reports and sealing records. Harvest for GMU 14C was: 13 full curl rams 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 not conducted due to inclement weather

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

Submitted by: Gino Del Frate

Date: 6 September 2013

Region III—Interior Alaska

Regionwide Activities

ACTIVITY 1: Conduct aerial composition surveys to monitor population trends.

Conducted aerial composition surveys in the White Mountains, Tanana Hills, Delta Controlled Use Area, Central and Western Alaska Range, and Tok Management Area; observed approximately 6,035 sheep.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor the harvest through hunter contacts and harvest or permit reports and analyze harvest data.

Monitored preliminary harvest of 565 sheep through hunter contacts and harvest or permit reports and analyzed harvest data.

ACTIVITY 3: Provide Dall sheep management information to State and Federal regulatory processes.

Provided information to 15 State fish and game advisory committees and 2 Federal regional advisory councils.

Submitted by: Roy A. Nowlin, Region III Management Coordinator

Region IV—Southcentral and Southwest Alaska

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

Regionwide:

ACTIVITY: Prepare triennial sheep management reports.

The next triennial sheep management report is due to DWC – HQ in the spring of 2014.

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>	33	1	0
<i>Unit 13A</i>	13	0	0
<i>Unit 13B</i>	4	0	0
<i>Unit 13C</i>	6	0	0
<i>Unit 13D</i>	24	0	0
<i>Unit 13E</i>	17	0	0
<i>Unit 14A</i>	17	0	0
<i>Unit 14B</i>	9	0	0
<i>Unit 16B</i>	11	0	0

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

	< Full Curl	Full Curl	Ewe- like	Lambs	Total
2013 Summer Surveys					
<i>Unit 11 CA 3</i>	85	11	207	27	330
<i>Unit 11 CA 11</i>	28	5	75	16	124
<i>Unit 11 CA 12</i>	69	19	144	26	258
<i>Unit 11 CA 22</i>	43	15	142	34	234
<i>Unit 11 CA 23</i>	68	14	146	22	250
<i>Unit 13A Boulder Cr.</i>	52	3	93	13	161
<i>Unit 13A Chickaloon-East</i>	49	5	62	9	125
<i>Unit 13A Hicks Cr.</i>	19	0	80	15	114
<i>Unit 13A Caribou Cr.</i>	142	3	235	79	459
<i>Unit 13A Sheep Mtn.</i>	10	1	32	7	50
<i>Unit 14A Chugach Mtns.</i>	157	16	329	59	561
<i>Unit 14A&B Talkteetna Mtns.</i>	112	2	209	59	382

Submitted by: Lem Butler, Region IV Management Coordinator

Date: 15 August, 2013

Region V—Western and Northern Alaska

Regionwide:

ACTIVITY 1: 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: Conduct aerial sex and age composition surveys in established count areas.

No surveys were scheduled during the reporting period.

ACTIVITY 2: 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.

ACTIVITY 3: Monitor harvests through, federal permit hunts, Community-based Harvest Assessments, public contacts and field observations.

We collected reports from hunters on sheep body condition and abundance. Community harvest assessments were conducted in the community of Ambler, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noorvik, and Shungnak in Unit 23 during the reporting period. Results will be summarized in a report prepared by Division of Subsistence later this year.

ACTIVITY 4: Update population objectives in cooperation with the public and other agencies.

Sheep information was reported at Advisory Committee meetings and additional review of population status was recommended by staff.

DeLong Mountains:

ACTIVITY 1: Conduct aerial sex and age composition surveys in established count areas.

Surveys were conducted by NPS in July 2011 (after the reporting period) using a distance sampling technique but conflicting fieldwork prevented ADF&G involvement. No surveys were conducted in 2013.

ACTIVITY 2: Monitor the population by conducting minimum counts or generating population estimates with survey data.

No additional population estimates have been attempted. Previously, data collected in 2011 by NPS generated an estimate of 592 sheep \pm about 200 sheep. Using that point estimate, the sheep population is down 35% from the minimum count in 2009. However, it's important to note that the two survey techniques are not comparable.

ACTIVITY 3: Monitor harvests through the federal permit hunts, permit hunts, Community-based Harvest Assessments, public contacts and field observations.

Eleven drawing permits were issued to hunters for the fall 2012 hunting season; eventually all reported their activity; 3 rams were taken in the drawing hunt. Twelve hunters registered to hunt in Hunt RS388 and no sheep were taken. No harvest information was available from federal sheep hunts.

ACTIVITY 4: Update population objectives in cooperation with the public and other agencies.

Sheep information was reported at Advisory Committee meetings and additional review of population status was recommended by staff.

Schwatka Mountains:

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

Two hunters registered for RS389 and no sheep were taken. Two people hunted with general season harvest tickets but did not take sheep. No harvest information was available from federal sheep hunts.

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

Date: 1 September 2013