

Wildlife Restoration MULTI-YEAR GRANT INTERIM PERFORMANCE REPORT

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
PO Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Restoration Grant

GRANT NUMBER: AKW-23-R5-2020 Amendment #1

PROJECT NUMBER: P6.0

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

PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE: July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021

PERFORMANCE YEAR: July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021

REPORT DUE DATE: Submit to FAC August 27, 2021

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Phillip Perry, Region V Management Coordinator

Authorities: 2 CFR 200.328
2 CFR 200.301

I. SUMMARY OF WORK COMPLETED ON PROJECT TO DATE.

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.

Mountain Range or Use Area Activities:

Baird Mountains:

Conduct aerial sex and age composition surveys in established count areas. The National Park Service (NPS) conducted an aerial sex and age composition survey during June 2019. Results from the June 2019 sheep survey were 177 adult sheep, 40% lower than the last 5 previous survey average. (2011-2018). No new information was gathered in 2020.

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

The survey conducted by NPS in June 2019 will also produce a population estimate.

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

No new information was gathered during this reporting period. All sheep hunts in the Baird Mountains in Units 23 and 26A were closed due to low populations. Results from the June 2018 Baird sheep survey were 160 adult sheep, 46% lower than the last 5 previous survey average. (2011-2017).

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.

ADFG conducted a limited aerial sex and age composition survey during July 2020. Results from the July 2020 Trail Creek-Kuguroruk area of the DeLongs was 81 adult sheep. The number of sheep sighted is probably skewed low due to poor weather. 2018-2019 surveys resulted in 177 and 196, respectively.

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

The survey conducted by NPS and ADF&G in July 2020 will also produce a population estimate. The estimate has not yet been finalized.

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. Results from the July 2020 Trail Creek-Kuguroruk area of the DeLongs was 83 adult sheep.

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

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 west of Etivluk River, were closed due to low populations.

II. SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT REPORTS AND/OR AMENDMENTS.

III. PUBLICATIONS

None.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT

The Alaska Department of Wildlife Conservation recommends continuing this project.

Submitted by Phillip Perry, Region V Management Coordinator