

Activities by Mountain Range and Unit

Kenai Mountains (Unit 7)

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

The preliminary 2003/04 harvest for the general season was:

Rams = 17 Ewes = 0 Total = 17

The preliminary 2003/04 harvest for the permit hunts was:

Round Mountain Hunt # 152 Rams = 0 Ewes = 7 Total = 7

Crescent Mountain Hunt # 154 Rams = 0 Ewes = 5 Total = 5

Crescent Mountain Hunt # 156 Rams = 2 Ewes = 0 Total = 2

Activity: Conduct summer aerial sex and age composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality of sheep.

Three count areas were surveyed resulting in the classification of 297 sheep. The composition was 90 rams, 165 ewes and small rams, and 42 lambs. Lambs totaled 14% of the surveyed sheep.

South Wrangell Mountains (Unit 11)

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

Preliminary (General hunt) Harvest:

GMU 11	Number of Hunters	220
	Rams Harvested	80
	Ewes Harvested	0
	Unk Sex Harvested	2

Activity: Conduct summer aerial sex and age composition surveys in cooperation with the National Park Service to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality of sheep.

Survey results:

CA 12	8/7/2003	121 ewes	67 rams	34 lambs	Total 222
CA 14	8/6/2003	43 ewes	2 rams	15 lambs	Total 60
CA 23E	8/6/2003	117 ewes	75 rams	25 lambs	Total 217

East Talkeetna Mountains (Unit 13A)

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

Preliminary Harvest:

GMU 13A	Number of Hunters	229
	Rams Harvested	45
	Ewes Harvested	0
	Unk Sex Harvested	0

Activity: Conduct summer aerial sex and age composition to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality of sheep.

Survey results:

Chickaloon R. 7/18/2003	103 ewes	41 rams	28 lambs	Total 172
Caribou Crk. 7/18/2003	187 ewes	131 rams	66 lambs	Total 384

Talkeetna Mountains (Unit 14A)

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

Preliminary Harvest:

GMU 14A	Number of Hunters	163
	Rams Harvested	29
	Ewes Harvested	0

North Chugach Mountains (Unit 13D)

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

Preliminary Harvest:

GMU 13D	Number of Hunters	192
	Rams Harvested	73
	Ewes Harvested	0

Activity: Conduct summer aerial sex and age composition to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality of sheep.

CA 1-5	7/10-19 2003	355 ewes	142 rams	108 lambs	Total 605
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Chugach Mountains (Unit 14C)

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

The preliminary 2003/04 Chugach Mountains harvest was:

Rams 151	Ewes 30	Total 181
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Activity 5: Conduct summer aerial sex and age composition surveys to determine status, trend, productivity and mortality of sheep.

A survey was completed in Unit 14C:

Rams 613	Ewes 970	Lambs 274	Total 1,892
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Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project: None

Stewardship Investment items purchased: None

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$28.05

Submitted by: Bruce Bartley, Acting Assistant Management Coordinator

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

Regionwide Activities

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

Obtained sheep harvest data from harvest ticket and permit reports and discussions with sheep hunters. Preliminary data indicate that:

- Alaska Range West and South of Denali National Park: 76 rams harvested.
- Mentasta, Nutzotin and northern Wrangell Mountains: 320 hunters harvested 146 rams.
- Tok Management Area: 87 hunters (87% participation rate) harvested 45 rams (9% \geq 40")
- Delta Controlled Use Area: 53 rams harvested.
- North Side of the Alaska Range East of the Nenana River, West of the Delta River and South of the Tanana River: 67 rams harvested
- White Mountains: 17 rams harvested
- Tanana Hills: 25 hunters harvested 10 rams in the general hunt and 3 hunters took 1 ram in the Mt. Harper drawing permit hunt.
- Eastern Brooks Range: 134 sheep harvested.
- Central Brooks Range: 59 hunters harvested 17 sheep.

Activity: Provide information to the Board of Game and advisory committees on sheep management.

Provided information on Dall sheep management issues and population status to the Board of Game and advisory committees throughout the year.

Mountain Range or Use Area Activities

Alaska Range West and South of Denali National Park

Activity: Conduct an aerial survey to estimate initial productivity and lamb survival.

Did not conduct an aerial survey because a pilot and aircraft were not available during the required time period.

Mentasta, Nutzotin and northern Wrangell Mountains

Activity: Conduct in-season aerial surveys of hunter distribution and activity.

No in-season aerial surveys of hunter distribution and activity were conducted due to budget constraints. However, we conducted interviews with hunters which indicates that sheep numbers are good and hunter opportunity and distribution is adequate to provide a quality hunting experience without overcrowding.

Tok Management Area

Activity: Conduct an aerial survey to monitor population composition and trend.

Surveyed 1,158 sheep during an aerial composition survey in the 550 mile² survey area within the Tok Management Area. Found 32 lambs and 35 rams: 100 ewes

Delta Controlled Use Area

Activity: Mail a questionnaire to hunters and quantify their satisfaction with aesthetics of Dall sheep hunting in the DCUA.

Hunter questionnaires were not completed because all available funding was reserved for aerial surveys, however, aerial surveys were cancelled due to funding reallocation

North Side of the Alaska Range East of the Nenana River, West of the Delta River and South of the Tanana River

Activity: Conduct an aerial survey to estimate initial productivity and lamb survival.

Conducted aerial surveys to estimate initial productivity (results not yet available).

White Mountains

Activity: Conduct an aerial survey to estimate initial productivity and lamb survival.

Conducted and aerial survey; 28 lambs: 100 ewes

Tanana Hills

Activity: Conduct an aerial survey to estimate initial productivity and lamb survival.

Surveyed 77 sheep during an aerial survey in the Mount Harper area and found 11 lambs:100 ewes. Surveyed 64 sheep during an aerial survey in the Glacier Mountain area and found 32 lambs and 111 rams:100 ewes.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project:**Eastern Brooks Range (Eastern Unit 24, Units 25A, 26B, and 26C)**

Activity: Conduct aerial surveys in western Unit 25A.

Completed sheep surveys in western Unit 25A and eastern Unit 24 in cooperation with BLM, NPS, and USFWS. Counted 2,241 sheep, including 288 lambs, 1328 ewes and 625 rams, with a total of 4% full curl rams in the sample.

Stewardship Investment items purchased:

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$43.4

Submitted by: Doreen Parker McNeill, Assistant Management Coordinator

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

Regionwide Activities

Activity 1: Provide information to the Board of Game on sheep management.
Sheep population information was provided to the Board of Game during November 2003.

Mountain Range or Use Area Activities

De Long Mountains

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

We monitored harvests through the statewide sheep harvest ticket system, permit hunt reports, Community-based Harvest Assessments, public contacts and field observations. Only 1 sheep, a ram, was reported taken under a state-managed subsistence registration hunt in Unit 23.

Activity 2: Update population objectives in cooperation with the public and other agencies.
No changes were made to sheep population objectives during this reporting period.

Schwatka Mountains

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

We monitored harvests through the statewide sheep harvest ticket system, permit hunt reports, Community-based Harvest Assessments, public contacts and field observations. No sheep were reported taken under state-managed hunts.

Other activities funded by Federal Aid on this project: None.

Stewardship Investment items purchased: None.

Total Regional Segment Period Project Costs (in thousands): \$ 0.1

Submitted by: Peter Bente, Management Coordinator

Statewide Project Costs (in thousands):

State Share = \$17.89 Federal Share = \$53.66 Total Costs = \$71.55