

**FEDERAL AID  
ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT**

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME  
DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION  
PO Box 115526  
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**DALL SHEEP  
ANNUAL SURVEY AND INVENTORY**

**State:** Alaska

**Grant and Segment No.** W-33-7

**Project No.** 6.0

**PERIOD:** 1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009

**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.

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

**Regionwide:**

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

*Kenai Mountains (Units 7 & 15):* Five rams were taken during the general season by 121 hunters. An additional two rams and three ewes were taken on drawing permits.

*Chugach and Wrangell Mountains (Units 11 & 13):* Six-hundred-thirty-three hunters reported taking 111 sheep total in both units. The breakdown is in the table below:

	Number of Hunters	Rams Harvested	Ewes Harvested
<i>Unit 11</i>	194	54	4
<i>Unit 13A</i>	226	20	0
<i>Unit 13B</i>	37	6	0
<i>Unit 13C</i>	36	5	0
<i>Unit 13D</i>	57	8	0
<i>Unit 13E</i>	83	10	0

*Chugach Mountains (Unit 14C):* One-hundred-eighteen hunters reported taking 30 sheep, including 17 rams and 13 ewes.

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

*Kenai Mountains (Units 7 & 15):* Four count areas were surveyed and 252 sheep classified. The composition was 73 rams, 153 ewes and small rams, and 26 lambs.

*Chugach and Wrangell Mountains (Units 11 & 13):* Survey activity reflected in table below:

	< Full Curl	Full Curl	Ewe- like	Lambs	Total
2008 Summer Surveys					
<i>Unit 11</i> CA 11	8	16	132	47	203
<i>Unit 11</i> CA 12	29	26	90	35	180
<i>Unit 13A</i> Caribou Creek	17	51	141	56	265
<i>Unit 13A</i> Hicks Creek	8	17	82	28	135
<i>Unit 13A</i> Sheep Mountain	12	5	58	26	101
<i>Unit 13E</i> Watana Hills	1	16	29	17	63
<i>Unit 13D</i> CA 1	0	0	39	26	65
<i>Unit 13D</i> CA 2	12	40	75	36	163
<i>Unit 13D</i> CA 11,12,13, TCUA	6	16	108	41	171
<i>Unit 13D</i> CA 16	6	9	55	24	94
<i>Unit 13D</i> CA 17	2	8	24	10	44
<i>Unit 13D</i> CA 18	10	37	100	26	173

*Chugach Mountains (Unit 14C):* One-hundred-eighteen hunters reported taking 30 sheep, including 17 rams and 13 ewes.

ACTIVITY 4: A new full time position will work with area biologists to determine research needs in the region.

Tom Lohuis was hired as the Dall sheep research biologist.

**Submitted by:** Gino DeFrate, Region II Management Coordinator

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

**Regionwide Activities:**

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

Conducted aerial composition surveys in the Delta Controlled Use Area, western Alaska Range, and Nutzotin Mountains and observed approximately 2,900 sheep.

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

Monitored preliminary harvest of 600 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, Alaska Board of Game, and 2 Federal regional advisory councils.

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

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

### **Regionwide Activities:**

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

Department assisted in NPS-lead sheep surveys in the Baird Mountains. Surveys were completed, however results are not available at this time.

#### **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 2008 hunting season all hunted and reported. 10 rams were taken under this hunt. Twenty-two hunters registered to hunt sheep under RS388 and 2 sheep were taken (both rams). No harvest information was available from federal sheep hunts.

ACTIVITY 2: Assist National Park Service (NPS) with aerial surveys as needed.

NPS staff focused their efforts in Unit 23 exclusively on the Baird Mountains. Department staff conducted two days of surveys in the Wulik Peaks portion of the De Long Mountains but weather and scheduling prevented survey completion. Information from these surveys was shared with the NPS to contribute to their rangewide sheep database.

#### **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 under the registration hunt RS389 or the general hunt. No harvest information was available from federal sheep hunts.

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