

Chairman, Alaska Board of Game, Board of Game members.

These comments concern proposals 135 through 139 dealing with spotting sheep with aircraft.

When this regulation was enacted several years ago, I was present at the Board of Game meeting when the proposal was discussed and deliberated by the Board of Game.

During the deliberations, ADFG presented data that showed that the majority of the sheep hunters (up to 90% as I recall) were only in the field hunting during the first two weeks of the sheep season, August 10 through August 25. And as a result, the same percentages of sheep that were harvested came during this same time frame, the first two weeks of the season.

I would like the Board to consider an amendment to the current regulation which would keep the current restrictions in place from August 10th through August 25th. Then allow the spotting of sheep using aircraft from August 26 through September 20th.

During the latter part of the sheep season, the rams start to move significant distances over a short period of time. The majority of the hunters have already left the field, and the complaints by hunters concerning the use of aircraft spotting sheep that the Board considered when enacting this regulation will also be reduced by 90% or more.

What ever the Board decides on this set of proposals, I feel strongly that if this regulation is left in place, the Board amend the current regulation to make the aircraft restriction apply for all open sheep seasons in the state including youth hunts.

Thank you for accepting my late comments.

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