

Proposal 92

Sheep Hunter Orientation

Require all sheep hunters take a sheep hunter orientation course prior to hunting

Recommendation: Neutral

Submitted by: Public

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Proposal 92

Sheep Hunter Orientation

Develop a sheep hunter orientation course.

Education materials available online and at offices.



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Proposal 92 **Sheep Hunter Orientation**

- Sublegal sheep take is on average 5-10% of total harvest
- In years where 300 sheep are harvested that is 15-30 sheep
- Little biological effect (rams only)
- Overall impact of reducing 5-10% to something less is unknown.

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Proposal 92 **Sheep Hunter Orientation**

**Require all sheep hunters take a sheep
hunter orientation course prior to
hunting**

Recommendation: Neutral

Submitted by: Public

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Proposal 93

Proposal 93

Public proposal

Effect of Proposal :

Repeal requirement to permanently seal sheep horns

Recommendation :

Opposed

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Proposal 93

Background


- Sealing and permanent marking required in Alaska since 2005 in most hunts.
- Sealing process ensures data collection, checks legality.
- Permanent marking has become 'Industry Standard' practice in US and Canadian jurisdictions.

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Proposal 93

Background



- ½” Diameter metal plug, countersunk into horn surface

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Proposal 93

Background

- Enforcement tool
- Permanent marking assists AWT
 - Chugach case: felony charges for two defendants

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

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Crime & Courts

Poachers killed sheep and moose in the Anchorage area. A wildlife photographer helped crack the case.

By Zaz Hollander
Published: December 8, 2024



Ryan Miller, a wildlife photographer based in Anchorage, helped crack a poaching case when he recognized photos of a McHugh Creek Dall sheep in a social media post that purported to be in a different place when killed. (Photo by Ryan Miller / explorealaskaphoto.com)

A moose was illegally shot in Anchorage's Kincaid Park in 2020. The next year, three Dall sheep were killed in the McHugh Creek area of Chugach State Park and another moose was shot illegally in Bear Valley on the city's Hillside.

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Proposal 93

Proposal 93

Public proposal

Effect of Proposal :

Repeal requirement to permanently seal sheep horns

Recommendation :

Opposed

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Proposal 94

Proposal 94

Public proposal

Effect of Proposal :

Change the definition of full-curl ram to specify the angle from which to view and assess the curl

Recommendation :

Opposed

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Background

- Current regulation (5 AAC 92.990(a)(30)) states ‘full curl horn’ of a male (ram) Dall’s sheep means that
 - A) The tip of at least one horn has grown through 360 degrees of a circle described by the outer surface of the horn, as viewed from the side...

Proposed Language: “Whose horn tip of at least one horn when viewed squarely from the side at right angles to the center of the skull completes a 360-degree circle.”

Background

Determining Full Curl

Ram horns grow in a helix, like the threads of a bolt, out from the head. Horns must be viewed along the axis of the curl (this is not the same as a side view as the head may need to be canted to look down the axis) to see the perfect circle. For a ram to be full curl, the outer surface of the horn, as viewed along the axis of the curl, must complete 360°.

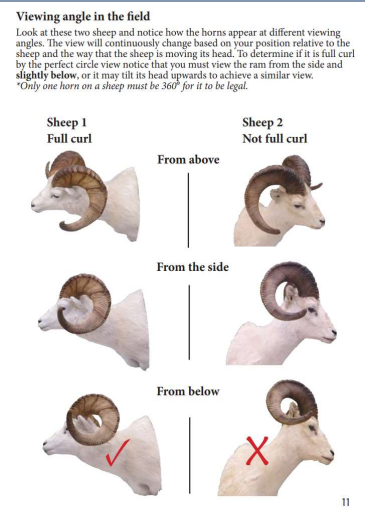
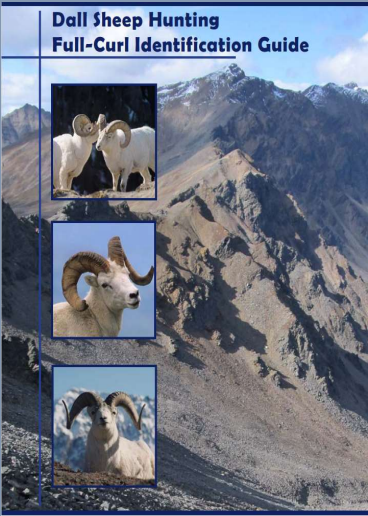
There are **3 methods of looking at the horns** to determine whether a horn grows through 360° of a circle and is full curl. The horns only need to be deemed full curl by *one* of the methods!

1. The Perfect Circle View
2. The Stick Test View
3. The Horn Base/Horn Tip Angle View

Background

- Due to natural variation in horn growth, legality is best assessed by viewing the horn along the center of the axis of the curl. The axis varies between individuals and is not always perpendicular to the center of the skull.
- The current methods allow hunters to account for natural variability. This change would eliminate two of the three methods used to assess legality.

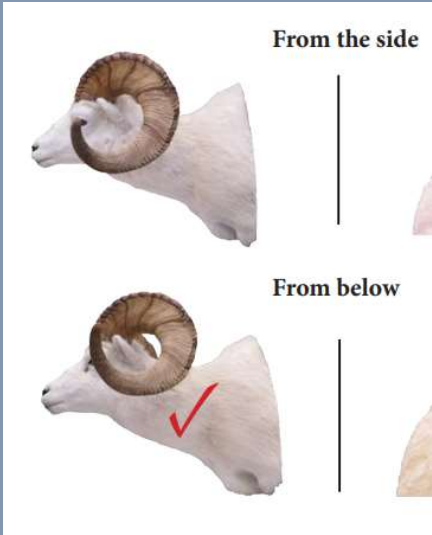
Background



Proposal 94

Background

- If viewed as proposed, this ram would not be legal
- If viewed down the axis of curl, this ram is legal



From the side

From below

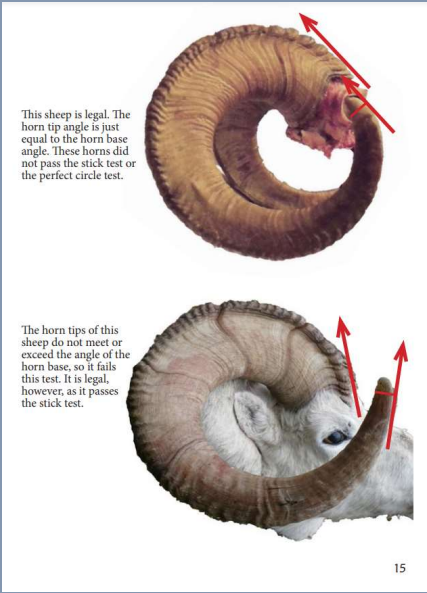
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Proposal 94

Background

- These images from the 2018 publication show legal rams with natural variation in horn growth.
- While legal under current language, it is unclear if they would be legal if proposed language was adopted.



This sheep is legal. The horn tip angle is just equal to the horn base angle. These horns did not pass the stick test or the perfect circle test.

The horn tips of this sheep do not meet or exceed the angle of the horn base, so it fails this test. It is legal, however, as it passes the stick test.

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Proposal 94

Proposal 94

Public proposal

Effect of Proposal :

Change the definition of full-curl ram to specify the angle from which to view and assess the curl

Recommendation :

Opposed

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Proposal 95

Proposal 95

Public proposal

Effect of Proposal :

Change the legal definition of ‘full-curl horn’ of a male (ram) Dall’s sheep to exclude rams ≥ 8 years of age, if not broken on both sides or if at least one horn has not grown through 360 degrees of curl.

Recommendation :

Neutral

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Proposal 95

Background

Current legal definition of ‘full curl ram’

A. The tip of at least one horn has grown through 360° of a circle described by the outer surface of the horn as viewed from the side; or

B. Both horn tips are broken (broomed); or

C. The sheep is at least 8 years of age as determined by horn growth annuli

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Proposal 95

Background

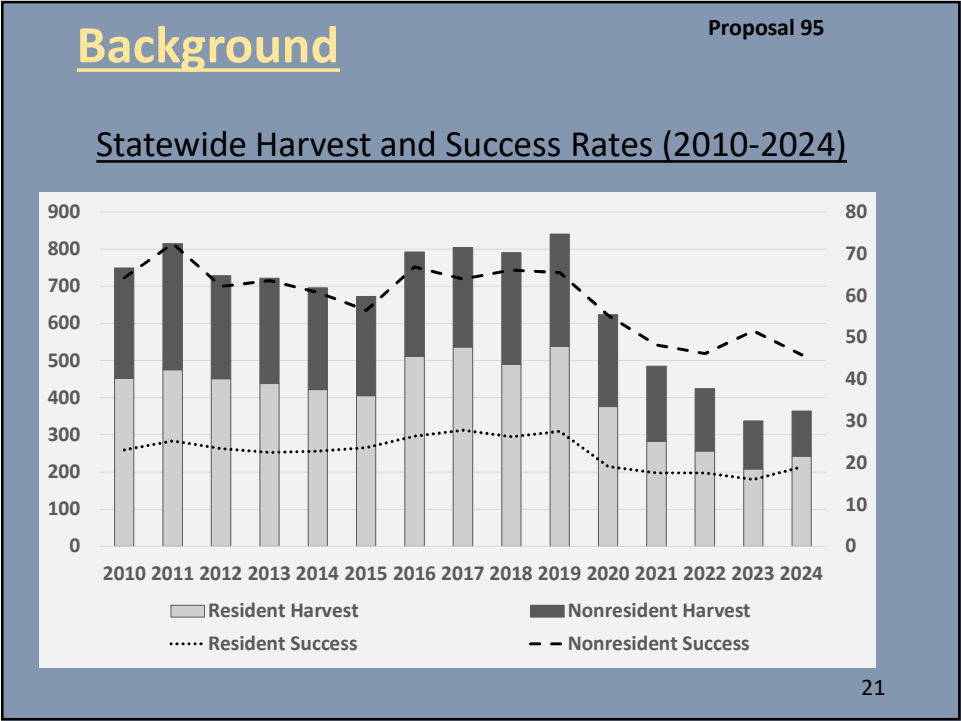
Statewide Sheep Hunter Numbers (2010-2024)

| Year | Resident hunters | Nonresident Hunters | Total |
|------|------------------|---------------------|-------|
| 2010 | 1950 | 450 | 2400 |
| 2011 | 1850 | 500 | 2350 |
| 2012 | 1900 | 450 | 2350 |
| 2013 | 1950 | 450 | 2400 |
| 2014 | 1850 | 450 | 2300 |
| 2015 | 1700 | 500 | 2200 |
| 2016 | 1900 | 450 | 2350 |
| 2017 | 1900 | 450 | 2350 |
| 2018 | 1850 | 450 | 2300 |
| 2019 | 1950 | 450 | 2400 |
| 2020 | 1950 | 450 | 2400 |
| 2021 | 1600 | 450 | 2050 |
| 2022 | 1450 | 350 | 1800 |
| 2023 | 1300 | 250 | 1550 |
| 2024 | 1300 | 250 | 1550 |

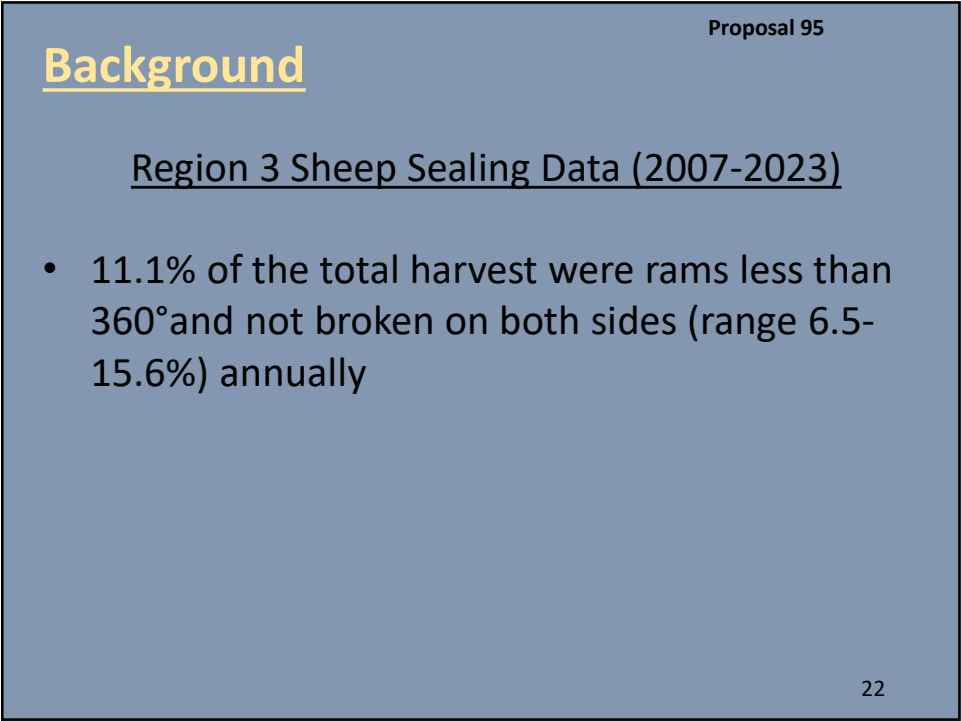
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Background

Region 3 Sheep Sealing Data (2007-2023)

- 11.1% of the total harvest were rams less than 360° and not broken on both sides (range 6.5-15.6%) annually
 - 6.8% of the total harvest were legal by age only

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Background

Region 3 Sheep Sealing Data (2007-2023)

- 11.1% of the total harvest were rams less than 360° and not broken on both sides (range 6.5-15.6%) annually
 - 6.8% of the total harvest were legal by age only
 - 4.3% were rams less than 360°, with at least one tip present, and less than 8 years of age (sublegal take)

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Proposal 95

Background

Department Comments

Sheep hunting is managed by the full curl harvest strategy.

- Sheep populations have declined 50-70% across their range; less legal rams on landscape
- Full curl strategy provides liberal hunting opportunity and is conservative

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Proposal 95

Background

Department Comments

- Unclear what the effect of proposal would be on illegal take
- ADFG strongly discourages harvesting on age
- Hunter justification for sublegal take varies

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Proposal 95

Proposal 95

Public proposal

Effect of Proposal :

Change the legal definition of 'full-curl horn' of a male (ram) Dall's sheep to exclude rams ≥ 8 years of age, if not broken on both sides or if at least one horn has not grown through 360 degrees of curl.

Recommendation :

Neutral

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Proposal 96

Proposal 96

Public proposal

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Recommendation :

Neutral

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Proposal 96

Background

Current legal definition of ‘full curl ram’

A. The tip of at least one horn has grown through 360° of a circle described by the outer surface of the horn as viewed from the side; or

B. Both horn tips are broken (broomed); or

C. The sheep is at least 8 years of age as determined by horn growth annuli

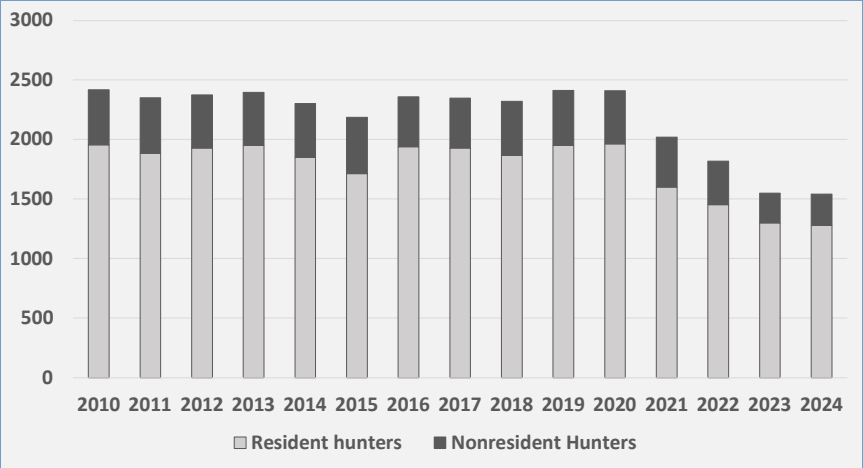
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Proposal 96

Background

Statewide Sheep Hunter Numbers (2010-2024)

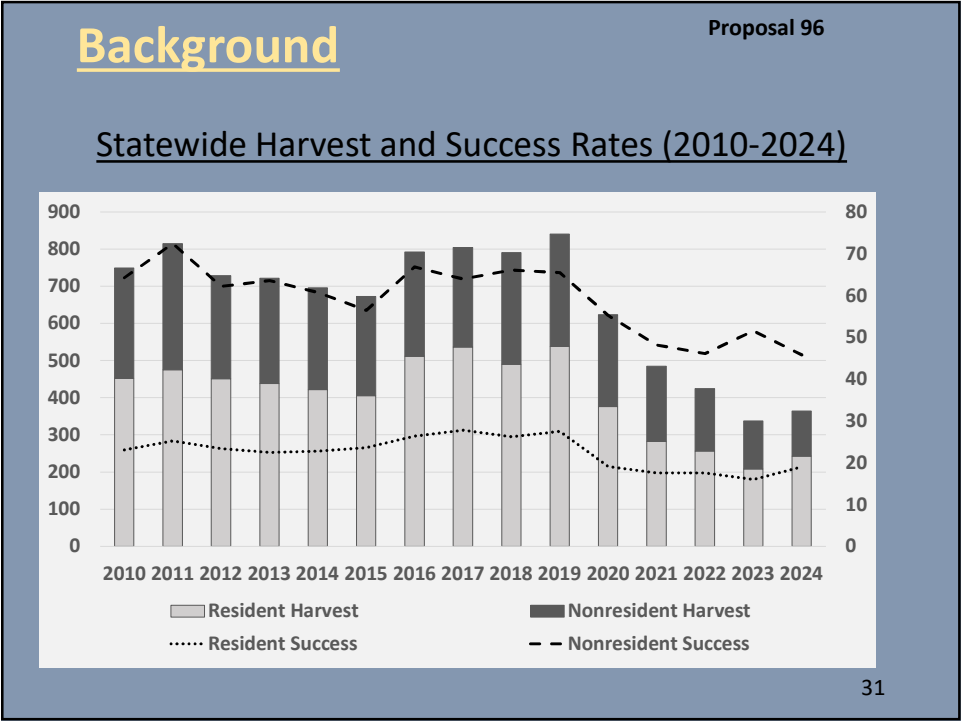


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| 2012 | 1900 | 450 | 2350 |
| 2013 | 1950 | 450 | 2400 |
| 2014 | 1850 | 450 | 2300 |
| 2015 | 1700 | 500 | 2200 |
| 2016 | 1900 | 450 | 2350 |
| 2017 | 1900 | 450 | 2350 |
| 2018 | 1850 | 450 | 2300 |
| 2019 | 1950 | 450 | 2400 |
| 2020 | 1950 | 450 | 2400 |
| 2021 | 1600 | 450 | 2050 |
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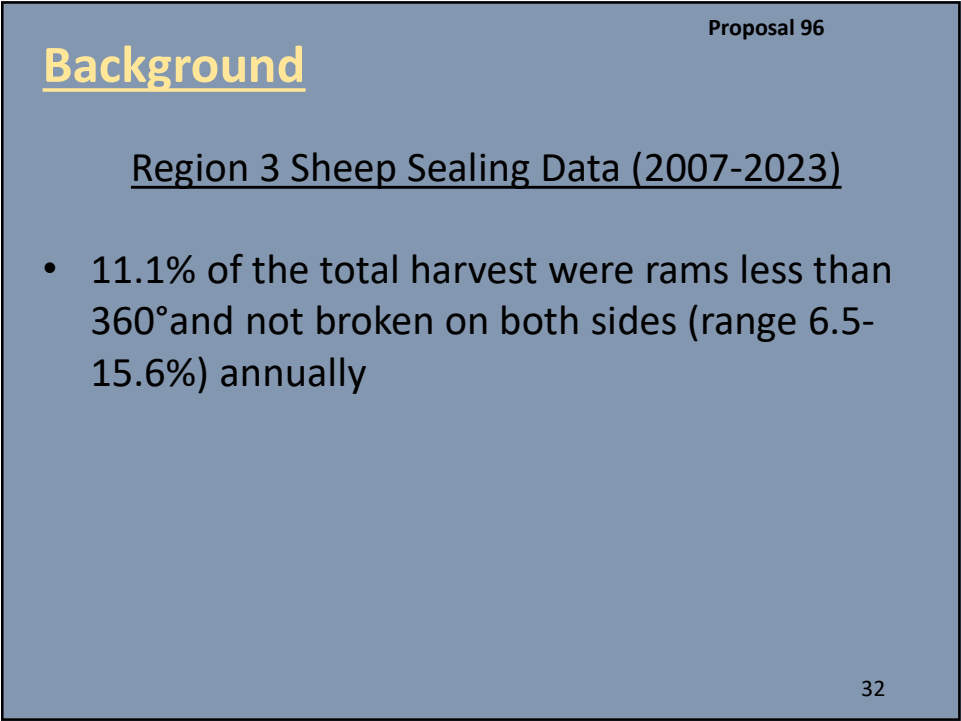
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Background

Region 3 Sheep Sealing Data (2007-2023)

- 11.1% of the total harvest were rams less than 360° and not broken on both sides (range 6.5-15.6%) annually
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Background

Region 3 Sheep Sealing Data (2007-2023)

- 11.1% of the total harvest were rams less than 360° and not broken on both sides (range 6.5-15.6%) annually
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 - 4.3% were rams less than 360°, with at least one tip present, and less than 8 years of age (sublegal take)

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Background

Department Comments

Sheep hunting is managed by the full curl harvest strategy.

- Sheep populations have declined 50-70% across their range; less legal rams on landscape
- Full curl strategy provides liberal hunting opportunity and is conservative

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Background

Department Comments

- Unclear what the effect of proposal would be on illegal take
- ADFG strongly discourages harvesting on age
- Hunter justification for sublegal take varies

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Proposal 96

Proposal 96

Public proposal

Effect of Proposal :
Change the legal definition of ‘full-curl horn’ of a male (ram) Dall’s sheep to exclude rams ≥ 8 years of age, if not broken on both sides or if at least one horn has not grown through 360 degrees of curl.

Recommendation :
Neutral

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Proposal 97

Sheep – Aircraft Restrictions

Lengthen the aircraft restriction for sheep hunting by 10 days

Recommendation: Neutral

Submitted by: Public

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Proposal 97

5 AAC 92.085(8)

Sheep – Aircraft Restrictions

A person cannot take or assist in taking big game until after 3am the day they have flown.

Between Aug 10 – Sept 20 aircraft cannot be used to locate or direct hunters to sheep.

Aircraft can be used to place and remove hunters, camps, maintain camps, and salvage sheep. Flight maneuvers necessary for safe landings are allowed.

2016-213-BOG findings adopted by reference.

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Proposal 97

Sheep – Aircraft Restrictions

Lengthen the aircraft restriction by 10 days

From: Aug. 10 – Sept. 20 To: **Aug. 1** – Sept. 20

| | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Youth hunts | Aug. 1 - Aug. 5 |
| Regular season hunts | Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 |
| DS140/240 | Oct. 1 - Oct. 10 |
| RS380 | Oct. 1 - Apr. 30 |
| Unit 24B HT | Aug. 1 - Apr. 30 |
| RS595 | Oct. 1 - Apr. 30 |
| Units 24, 25 and 26HT (Dalton Hwy) | Aug. 10 - Oct. 5 |

Will need to consider reasonable opportunity.

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Proposal 97 Sheep – Aircraft Restrictions

Lengthen the aircraft restriction for sheep hunting by 10 days

Recommendation: Neutral

Submitted by: Public

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Proposal 98 Sheep – Aircraft Restrictions

Lengthen the aircraft restriction for sheep hunting by 35 days

Recommendation: Neutral

Submitted by: Public

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Proposal 98

Sheep – Aircraft Restrictions

5 AAC 92.085(8)

A person cannot take or assist in taking big game until after 3am the day they have flown.

Between Aug 10 – Sept 20 aircraft cannot be used to locate or direct hunters to sheep.

Aircraft Can be used to place and remove hunters, camps, maintain camps, and salvage sheep. Flight maneuvers necessary for safe landings are allowed.

2016-213-BOG findings adopted by reference.

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Proposal 98

Sheep – Aircraft Restrictions

Lengthen the aircraft restriction by 35 days

From: Aug. 10 – Sept. 20 To: Aug. 1 – Oct. 15

| | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Youth hunts | Aug. 1 - Aug. 5 |
| Regular season hunts | Aug. 10 - Sept. 20 |
| DS140/240 | Oct. 1 - Oct. 10 |
| RS380 | Oct. 1 - Apr. 30 |
| Unit 24B HT | Aug. 1 - Apr. 30 |
| RS595 | Oct. 1 - Apr. 30 |
| Units 24, 25 and 26HT (Dalton Hwy) | Aug. 10 - Oct. 5 |

Will need to consider reasonable opportunity.

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Proposal 98 Sheep – Aircraft Restrictions

Lengthen the aircraft restriction for sheep hunting by 35 days

Recommendation: Neutral

Submitted by: Public

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Proposal 99 Sheep – Aircraft Restrictions

Shorten the aircraft restriction for sheep hunting, and modify the remaining 31 days of the season

Recommendation: Neutral

Submitted by: Public

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Proposal 99

Sheep – Aircraft Restrictions

5 AAC 92.085(8)

A person cannot take or assist in taking big game until after 3am the day they have flown.

Between Aug 10 – Sept 20 aircraft cannot be used to locate or direct hunters to sheep.

Aircraft Can be used to place and remove hunters, camps, maintain camps, and salvage sheep. Flight maneuvers necessary for safe landings are allowed.

2016-213-BOG findings adopted by reference.

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Proposal 99

Sheep – Aircraft Restrictions

Could result in an increase in the number of sheep harvested.

Difficult to enforce 1500 ft/500 yards.

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Proposal 99 **Sheep – Aircraft Restrictions**

Shorten the aircraft restriction for sheep hunting, and modify the remaining 31 days of the season

Recommendation: Neutral

Submitted by: Public

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Proposal 100 **Sheep – Nonresident Harvest**

Limit nonresident sheep hunters to no more than 35% of total sheep harvest from any GMU

Recommendation: Neutral

Submitted by: Public

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Proposal 100 **Sheep – Nonresident Harvest**

Board relies on 2017-222-BOG findings to set allocations.

Need a mechanism to limit harvest:

- **Drawing hunt would need to be required in each HT area.**
- **Need to decide how many years of harvest to analyze to determine the number of permits to issue for each area.**

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Proposal 100 **Sheep – Nonresident Harvest**

Limit nonresident sheep hunters to no more than 35% of total sheep harvest from any GMU

Recommendation: Neutral

Submitted by: Public

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Proposal 101

Dall’s Sheep

Add Dall’s sheep to the list of species identified as important for providing high levels of human consumptive use.

Department Proposal

Department Recommendation: **Neutral**



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Proposal 101

Dall’s sheep

Current Regulations

5 AAC 92.106. Intensive management of identified big game prey populations. For purposes of implementing AS 16.05.255(e) - (g), the Board of Game (board) will

(1) consider the following criteria when identifying big game prey populations that are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use:

- (A) harvest size: the average annual historic human harvest meets or exceeds values as follows:
 - (i) caribou: 100;
 - (ii) deer: 500;
 - (iii) moose: 100;
- (B) accessibility to harvest;
- (C) utilization for meat: a population that is used primarily for food; and
- (D) level of hunter demand: as reflected by total hunter effort, number of applications for permits, or other indicators;

There are varying customary and traditional use findings (C&T) and associated amounts reasonably necessary (ANS) for subsistence uses for sheep across the state. Existing findings and ANS amounts are found in 5 AAC 99.025(a)(10).

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Proposal 101

Dall’s sheep

Effects of this proposal

If adopted this proposal will add Dall’s sheep to those species authorized for intensive management (IM).

Background

- Moose, caribou, and deer current listed in 5 AAC 92.106
- IM may include habitat and/or predator management
- No Dall’s sheep IM currently

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Proposal 101

Dall’s sheep

Discussion

- Board must determine if Dall’s sheep meet the intent of 5 ACC 92.106.
- Board must determine harvest threshold qualifying sheep populations for IM; annual take varies greatly.
- Board must review sheep populations statewide and assign IM finding (+/-) to those meeting criteria above.
- Populations with a positive finding will need population and harvest objectives.

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Proposal 101

Dall's sheep

Discussion

- Department believes severe weather is cause of decline in abundance.
- Habitat limitation to Dall's sheep, and possible/practical manipulation are unknowns
- Predation may involve up to five species (wolves, bears, golden eagles, coyote, wolverine)

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Proposal 101

Dall's sheep

Discussion

- If adopted the department will need time to develop data and analysis needed by the board.
- If adopted the department will need time to examine options for both habitat manipulation and predator control.

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Proposal 101

Dall's Sheep

Add Dall's sheep to the list of species identified as important for providing high levels of human consumptive use.

Department Proposal

Department Recommendation: **Neutral**



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