

Proposal 145

5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.

For Dall Sheep hunting in the Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area remove non resident opportunity and reduce resident opportunity as follows:

What solution do you recommend? In other words, if the board adopted your solution, what would the new regulation say?

Sheep Unit 20E

Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area

Resident: One ram with full-curl horn or larger by draw permit only DS XXX Aug 10 – Sept 20 (up to 5 permits)

Nonresident: No Open Season

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

**Nonresident Sheep Hunting Opportunity in Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area (GMCUA)
Resident Sheep Hunting Opportunity in GMCUA**

Sheep hunting opportunity in the GMCUA has been closed since 2024 From the Department's announcement:

(Tok, Alaska) – All sheep seasons within the Glacier Controlled Use Area, in a portion of Unit 20E, will be closed for the 2026 season, to address public concerns for sheep in this area. This closure will only impact the 2026 season.

“The GMCUA was created in 1971 to provide greater protection for sheep that used the Glacier Mountain area. Sheep within the GMCUA are part of the larger Tanana Hills sheep population, which exists in marginal, non-contiguous sheep habitat over an expansive area of eastern interior Alaska.

The GMCUA contains a small segment of the Upper Tanana Dall sheep population. Harsh winters in 2020 and 2021 corresponded with a steep decline in sheep populations statewide. Few sheep have been observed in the GMCUA since 2019, and no legal rams have been observed or harvested in the area since 2021.

Although the full-curl harvest strategy is an extremely conservative approach to hunting management, there are times when more conservative strategies are warranted to address public concerns.

Consequently, the GMCUA was initially closed for the 2024 sheep season and will be closed again for the 2026 season.”

When/if sheep hunting opportunity is again allowed in the GMCUA, there should be no nonresident sheep hunting opportunity allowed. Small, isolated sheep populations like this one

in the Yukon-Tanana uplands are of concern and should be reserved for resident sheep hunting only when sheep hunting is allowed.

Any resident sheep hunting opportunity (should this area open again) should be by draw permit only with a limited number of tags.

Did you develop your proposal in coordination with others, or with your local fish and game advisory committee?

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(OI-F26-092)
