

Proposal 167

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

Limit nonresident sheep hunters in Units 26B and 24A via a draw permit system as follows:

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

Limit nonresident sheep hunters in Units 26B and 24A via a draw permit system.

Unit 26B Remainder and Unit 26B within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area Nonresidents

Season Dates: Aug 10 – Sept 20

**Bag Limit: 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years by draw permit only
DS XXX with up-to 5 permits issued.**

Unit 24A Remainder and Unit 24A within the Dalton Highway Corridor Management Area Nonresidents

Season Dates: Aug 10 – Sept 20

**Bag Limit: 1 ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years by draw permit only
DS XXX with up-to 5 permits issued.**

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

Continued unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity in units 26B and 24A.

From 2022 – 2025, all federal lands in 26B west of the Sag River and 24A were closed by the Federal Subsistence Board to sheep hunting by all users due to sheep conservation concerns. These areas will be opened again to sheep hunting in the fall of 2026.

Sheep are in significant decline in these areas and the 2025/2026 winter certainly was a bad one for sheep. We believe nonresident sheep hunting opportunity should be limited.

The charts below from ADF&G show sheep harvest data for Units 26B and 24A from 2017-2025, The Department was unable to provide sheep harvest statistics for just the areas on federal lands that were closed to all sheep hunting 2022-2025.

Total resident sheep harvests in Unit 26B from 2017-2025: **61 sheep,**

Total nonresident sheep harvests in Unit 26B from 2017-2025: **63 sheep.**

Total resident sheep harvests in Unit 24A from 2017-2025: **46 sheep.**

Total nonresident sheep harvests in Unit 24A from 2017-2025: **43 sheep.**

all 26B Sheep hunters	Unsuccessful hunters				Successful hunters				Total hunters	
	Nonresidents	Residents			Nonresidents	Residents			Nonresidents	Residents
2017	9	34			6	8			15	42
2018	1	40			11	7			12	47
2019	4	39			7	14			11	53
2020	2	41			9	6			11	47
2021	7	48			10	8			17	56
2022	4	15			4	3			8	18
2023	6	14			7	2			13	16
2024	8	17			5	6			13	23
2025	6	25			4	7			10	32

All 24A Sheep hunters	Unsuccessful				Successful				Total hunters	
	Nonresidents	Residents			Nonresidents	Residents			Nonresidents	Residents
2017	3	39			10	5			13	44
2018	2	42			5	11			7	53
2019	9	49			6	12			15	61
2020	6	39			10	7			16	46
2021	13	42			8	3			21	45
2022	9	6			1	0			10	6
2023	4	4			3	1			7	5
2024	4	10			0	2			4	12
2025	2	8			0	5			2	13

While the number of resident sheep hunters in these units is 2 to 5 times more than nonresident sheep hunters, nonresidents take on average 50% of the total sheep harvest. With sheep in such decline in these areas and fewer legal rams available, residents should have a clear sheep hunting priority to avoid crowding and conflicts and any future closures.

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

Thanks to Department staff for providing the data!

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(OI-F26-093)
