

Proposal 214

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

20A Sheep (GS000) Resident Stats RY21-25						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Avg
Hunted	135	96	111	136	124	120
Harvested	18	12	20	21	19	18
% Success	13%	13%	18%	15%	15%	15%

*Preliminary data

20A Sheep (GS000) Nonresident Stats RY21-25						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Avg
Hunted	47	47	40	49	51	47
Harvested	26	24	20	24	35	26
% Success	55%	51%	50%	49%	69%	55%

*Preliminary data

Limit nonresident sheep hunting opportunity in Unit 20A 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 hunting opportunity in Unit 20A.

Unit 20A Sheep

Nonresident Aug 10 – Sept 20

One ram with full-curl horn or larger every four regulatory years by draw permit DSXXX Up-to 20 permits may be issued

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

Sheep Declines in Unit 20A, Unlimited Nonresident Opportunity, Crowding & Conflicts

Continued unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity in Unit 20A during a significant sheep decline is unwarranted, even if it poses no sheep conservation concerns under full-curl management.

Unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity in Unit 20A combined with no limits on the guides nonresident sheep hunters are required to hire isn't good for anyone and with fewer legal rams on the landscape it exacerbates the conflicts.

Nonresident sheep hunters in Unit 20A harvested 57 percent of the sheep on average over the last five years: (ADFG charts)

20A Sheep (GS000) Harvest by Residency RY21-25						
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025*	Avg
Resident	18	12	20	21	19	18
Nonres	26	24	20	24	35	26
% Nonres	59%	67%	50%	53%	58%	57%

*1*Preliminary data. Note for RY25, the resident and nonresident harvest does not add up to the total harvest for the area. This is due to several harvest tickets with no residency information included.*

Nonresident guided sheep hunters make up 28% of all the sheep hunters on average over the last five years and have nearly four times the success rates as resident hunters:

The sheep population in Unit 20A has significantly declined, however there was a bright spot in the 2025 minimum count survey with a marked increase in the number of lambs, along with an overall increase in the population. Still, we are looking at a decades long period for sheep recovery if it does happen and sheep will remain at low numbers for the near future.

The board is on record stating that there are problems with unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity combined with no limits on guides when sheep populations are this low. This is why the option the board chose to solve similar problems in Unit 19C was to implement a guide concession program to limit the number of guides and their clients. There may very well be proposals to implement such a program in Unit 20A before the board during this cycle.

But until there is a guide concession program in Unit 20A, with the current status of our sheep population we believe nonresident sheep hunters should be limited. And the only way we see to do that is via draw permits with a limited allocation. We recognize why a draw permit system is not preferred by the guides, but we do it in plenty of other units. Any new draw permit system would not take effect until the fall 2028 season.

With all due respect to the board, it's past time to act and limit nonresident sheep hunters in Unit 20A. We don't need it to be a draw for both residents and nonresidents; there is no reason we can't just have a draw hunt for nonresidents while allowing over-the-counter resident sheep hunting opportunity at the same time.

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

Thanks to Department staff for the data and charts!

PROPOSED BY: Resident Hunters of Alaska

(OI-F26-094)
