

During the 2015 Work Session, the Board of Game requested this proposal be scheduled for the Central/Southwest region meeting scheduled for February 2015.

PROPOSAL 207 - 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.
Modify sheep hunting opportunities statewide.

Potential changes to use of aircraft for sheep hunting:

1. From August 10 to September 20 aircraft may only be used to place hunters and camps, maintain existing camps, and salvage meat and trophies while used for the purpose of Dall sheep hunting. Using an aircraft for the purpose of spotting sheep or locating Dall sheep during the open hunting season is prohibited.
2. It is against the law to hunt or help someone else take a Dall sheep until 2 PM the day following the day you have flown.
3. It is against the law to hunt or help someone else take a Dall sheep within 5 miles of the site where you were flown-in, until 24 (48) hours after you have flown.

WHAT IS THE ISSUE YOU WOULD LIKE THE BOARD TO ADDRESS AND WHY?

During the last few Board meetings, the Board of Game (board) has received several proposals requesting changes to sheep seasons statewide. Hunters are expressing dissatisfaction with Dall sheep harvest opportunities. Many of the concerns expressed have noted increasing conflict among Alaska resident sheep hunters, hunting guides, transporters, and non-resident sheep hunters. Proposals were deferred until the February 2015 board meeting in Wasilla. At that time, the board will consider changes to all aspects of sheep hunting seasons across the state.

The Department of Fish and Game has contracted with the University of Alaska to survey the public that may be impacted by these changes, including sheep hunters, guides, transporters and air taxi operators. The survey attempted to learn more about sheep hunter characteristics and behaviors, to quantify the extent of hunter satisfaction or dissatisfaction with current sheep hunting opportunities, and to quantify the extent of hunter approval or disapproval of potential changes to sheep hunting regulations and management. The results are available on the Board of Game website at: www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.main

The public is encouraged to review the results of the survey and provide comments to the board by January 30, 2015 for the February 2015 meeting.

PROPOSED BY: The Alaska Board of Game

[WS-2015-01]
