

My name is Ethan Williams I am from Wasilla. I would like to first of all thank the Board of Game for taking time to listen to our testimonies today. I moved to Alaska in 1974 and the number one reason for that move was to hunt sheep. Being in the arena of sheep country is about as good as life gets in my opinion. Sometimes the taking of a ram is incidental to all else that is involved such as the planning the commitment to physical and mental fitness, the scouting, and the comradery. I am requesting that in any management program going forward is that you consider keeping the opportunity open for resident hunters to be in the field all season long, every season.

At the meeting last night there were many good and diverse thoughts and ideas, however, there was one observation that was consistent throughout and that was the fact that there were less sheep. I can testify that across the board in everywhere I have hunted in the State that there are definitely less sheep. If there ever was a situation where allocation could be justified, then right here, right now is the time as far as sheep management is concerned. The State Constitution says that the resources shall be managed for the residents.

Last night also there was mention of revisiting and revising the current sheep management plan at the department of fish and game. I think that is a great idea as management plans tend to become partially obsolete as conditions change and time passes. A work group consisting of folks from diversified background and groups was also suggested. I have seen some situations work with this format and some that did not work so well. If the right group was put together that would work, however, if not valuable time would be wasted. I feel in order to get the best and quickest solutions are to defer these matters to the Advisory Committees and for each of us to get more involved at that level. These folks are knowledgeable and have already donated long hours to make hunting and fishing in Alaska better. Their decisions need to be given sincere consideration. There are many other organizations such as AOC, AHPA, ABA, and FNAWS, that could help immediately with this process also. Another item in line with sheep management is the Guide Concession Program. I would like to see that reopened and completed as soon as possible and folded into a new management plan. We need to do all these things quickly.

Concerning proposal 207 concerning aircraft restrictions I am against that. This proposal has nothing to do with the conservation of the resource. It only puts more restrictions on residents and would be a nightmare to enforce. And concerning Proposal 208, as I stated before I feel that the vast majority of the resident hunters want the option to hunt the entire season. Weather and life schedules could wipe out a total season if they were limited to a specific 10 day hunt. A limited draw for non-resident hunters as suggested would be a good place to start and another idea is to restrict the non-resident guides. We need to explore all options of management before placing more restrictions on the residents.

THANK YOU

**Ethan Williams**

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**From:** James Stocker <jstocker@mtaonline.net>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 16, 2015 2:30 PM  
**To:** 'Ethan Williams'  
**Subject:** Article 8 - Natural Resources

## Preamble

We the people of Alaska, grateful to God and to those who founded our nation and pioneered this great land, in order to secure and transmit to succeeding generations our heritage of political, civil, and religious liberty within the Union of States, do ordain and establish this constitution for the State of Alaska.

## Article 8 - Natural Resources

### § 1. Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the State to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest.

### § 2. General Authority

The legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the State, including land and waters, for the maximum benefit of its people.

### § 3. Common Use

Wherever occurring in their natural state, fish, wildlife, and waters are **reserved to the people for common use.**

### § 4. Sustained Yield

Fish, forests, wildlife, grasslands, and all other replenishable resources belonging to the State shall be utilized, developed, and maintained on the sustained yield principle, subject to preferences among beneficial uses.

Entire State of Alaska: \_\_\_\_\_