

## Dall sheep legal ram Evaluation

RC 26

### ISSUE:

Hunters, ADF&G staff, Wildlife Troopers and others are concerned with the lack of consistent methods and standards used to determine if Dall rams are legal at the time of sealing.

### ACTION:

DWC staff have formed a team of educators, biologists, and front line staff that is currently editing a Dall sheep legal ram evaluation guide to determine if they are legal. The standards covered in this document will address how to determine full-curl based on three methods, how to age rams based on horn rings, and how to more clearly understand and determine what a "broken" horn is. This document will be reviewed by other staff, Alaska Wildlife Troopers, user groups, and others with the intent to eventually produce education and training materials for field staff, wildlife troopers, hunters, and guides.

### Goals:

- 1) Reduce frustration between hunters and ADF&G staff evaluating legal sheep at sealing
- 2) Create training guide and protocol for staff to evaluate legal rams
- 3) Provide education materials and training opportunities for hunters, guides, and others

### TIMELINE:

February	DRAFT Legal Ram Evaluation (LRE) Guide prepared and edited by staff
March	Report to the BOG and BGCSB on progress and plans for implementation
April	MCT review of draft LRE guide, DMT concurrence, later public input, prepare FINAL
June	Distribute evaluation manual and provide training to ADF&G and AWT staff
July	Provide workshops on evaluating rams to educate sheep hunters, guides, and others
2016	Webpage, DVDs, posters for education and information sharing with public

### PRODUCTS TO BE PRODUCED

#### FOR THE NEXT 6 MONTHS:

Evaluation and legal standards training for ADF&G and AWT staff *who* will be sealing Dall rams  
Training manual for evaluating legal rams to be used by ADF&G staff and Alaska Wildlife Troopers  
Dall sheep guide – booklet similar to Mtn. Goat evaluation guide

#### OVER THE NEXT 18 TO 24 MONTHS:

Dall sheep ram evaluation poster (similar to the one created by B. Schwanke several years ago)  
Create interactive course (WEB) and Videos on evaluating legal sheep for ADF&G website

SUBMITTED BY ADFG