

Dall Sheep Ram Evaluation by ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation

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:

Division of Wildlife Conservation staff have formed a team of educators, biologists, and front line staff that is currently editing a Dall sheep guide for evaluating Dall rams 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 hunters, guides, staff, and wildlife troopers.

Goals:

- 1) Reduce frustration between hunters and ADF&G staff evaluating legal sheep at sealing
- 2) Provide education materials and training opportunities for hunters, guides, and others

TIMELINE:

January	Dall sheep ram evaluation team finalizes edits Dall sheep guide
February	Review and editing by MCT, DMT, staff, and user input as appropriate
March	Report to the BOG and BGCSB on progress and plans for implementation
April – June	Share information, distribute sheep guide, provide training to ADF&G and AWT staff
July	Provide workshops on evaluating rams to educate sheep hunters, guides, and others
2015 -2016	Webpage development 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

Dall sheep guide – booklet similar to Mtn. Goat evaluation guide

Training manual for evaluating legal rams to be used by ADF&G staff and Alaska Wildlife Troopers

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 with videos on evaluating legal sheep for ADF&G website