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May 17, 2015

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P.O. Box 115526

Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Board of Game members,

The Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) membership includes over 10,000 Alaskans including individual members as well as 48 clubs who hunt on Alaska public lands. AOC opposes the Board Generated Proposal (BGP) #207, as amended, and asks that the Board of Game (BOG) rescind the adopted proposal.

AOC, along with an overwhelming number of Alaskans who testified at the February 2015 BOG Central/Southwest Region meeting and the March 2015 BOG Southcentral Region meeting, continues to oppose the BGP #207. Neither the BOG members, the public, the ADF&G, nor the Alaska Department of Law have provided any additional materials to warrant AOC supporting this purely allocative proposal.

Clearly, based on past history in the Alaska Court system, the BOG is free to allocate game resources in any manner it sees fit, unlike the Alaska Board of Fisheries which is bound by an allocative criteria in statute, AS 16.05.251(e). Until such time as the Alaska Legislature is so inclined to amend AS 16.05.255. Regulations of the Board of Game; management requirements to include a hunting allocation criteria, the hunting public is at the mercy of a majority of the seated BOG members.

Should the BOG choose to ignore the overwhelming majority of comments from the public, F&G Advisory Committees, and conservation organizations and instead continues to adopt regulations that ban aerial spotting of Dall sheep during hunting seasons statewide, the public has little say other than in the Alaska legislative process.

AOC also continues to oppose the establishment of a statewide sheep working group for the same reasons that AOC representatives have

"Protecting your Hunting, Trapping, Fishing and Access Rights"
The Official State Association of the National Rifle Association.

expressed in written and oral comments before the BOG since the notion was first made public in 2014. There is already in state statute a process for sheep hunters to submit proposals to the BOG asking for an allocation of the harvestable surplus of sheep.

AOC is hopeful that the BOG will rescind its BGP #207 and decline creation of a working group made up of those vying for an allocation of sheep harvest statewide. The BOG has already exhausted enough of the hunting public's time and money on its unpopular attempt to appease a very small minority of sheep hunters in Alaska.

Sincerely,

Rod Arno



Executive Director
Alaska Outdoor Council

Bill Iverson



President
Alaska Outdoor Council



Submitted By
Benjamin Belfiglio
Submitted On
5/5/2015 11:30:24 PM
Affiliation
Pilot

As a student pilot who dreams of flying in the Brooks Range, not even necessarily hunting, I have very serious concerns regarding the wording and enforcement of Prop 207. Outlawing sheep spotting by aircraft in such vague language has the potential for severe consequences for pilots flying anywhere in the mountains from Aug 10th to Sept 20th, whether or not they are engaged in hunting. As written this law would essentially make anyone flying in an airplane who sees a sheep while enroute to any destination a criminal because they "spotted" a sheep.

What if a pilot is shuttling supplies to a camp, and due to weather takes a different route between the staging area and camp, the pilot choose to do this in the interest of safety but a wildlife officer interprets as trying to survey more areas to "spot" sheep for the hunting party? The bottom line is there is no way for a pilot to fly through the mountains in a safe manner and avoid seeing sheep. If they see a sheep, they have spotted a sheep. If anyone is engaged in hunting and they flew in an aircraft, they will be presumed guilty of spotting sheep while flying. There is no way for a wildlife officer to reasonably make a determination of what flight patterns constitute "spotting". Even circling an area, could be to gain elevation to cross a ridge, not to specifically look for sheep. Once a regulation has affected the legal maneuvers a pilot must make to ensure safe flight, it has crossed the line into regulating airspace, which the Board of Game does not have the authority to do.

I also fear non-hunting recreation seekers (photographers, hikers, etc) could also be targeted should they happen to encounter a group of hunters and mention having seen sheep on their flight.

Please reconsider the language and the intent of this proposal. I am sure the Board can come up with other ways to ensure the principles of "fair chase" are adhered to in hunting efforts. As written, this unenforceable regulation has the potential to cause undue hardship to innocent people.



Submitted By

Bert womack

Submitted On

5/14/2015 6:59:28 PM

Affiliation

Phone

9072429870

Email

Bewomack@hotmail.com

Address

11300 Browder ave
anchorage, Alaska 99507

I do not support this change. It is poorly thought out and will lead to the wrongful persecution of innocent pilots. Please do away with this regulation.



Submitted By
Bill Bryant
Submitted On
5/12/2015 8:28:21 AM
Affiliation

Phone
9073984584

Email
gt2fly150@yahoo.com

Address
925 Ames Rd.
Kenai, Alaska 99611

1. **Please do not approve this change.** Please do to limit the private individual from flying their plane to look for sheep. This will give the Transporters, Outfitters and Guides a huge advantage in the harvesting of sheep over the private pilot. The Transporters, Outfitters and Guides spend a considerable time flying around the sheep habitat and will be able to spot, locate, track and develop seasonal and yearly pattern that give a huge advantage over a private individual.

2. **Please do not approve this change.** Please do not create a change that limits one of the basic freedoms that we as Alaskan have enjoyed in our state. The Bush Pilot is loved as one of the basic intrigues and enjoyments of living in Alaska. It is why many of us have raised our families, worked, and lived in Alaska for this basic pursuit. I've work long and hard to be able to afford fly. It seems you are trying to take those prillages away from me.

Submitted By
Bill Rusk
Submitted On
4/27/2015 5:34:26 PM
Affiliation

Phone
815-985-9544
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Address
3005 Fairchild St
Poplar Grove,, Illinois 61065

Gentlemen

I do not live in your great state, but I visit as often as I can. My visits are almost exclusively for the purpose of flying my Supercub to explore and enjoy the spectacular scenery in the mountains. I do fish a little while camping but up to this point I have not hunted. However; I carry a shotgun, handgun and often a rifle for survival and protection.

I am a prime candidate for abuse, and misuse of the power you are vesting in the government. If I saw a sheep, moose, eagles nest, I would circle to see it. Then I am immediately in violation of your statute, AND, I am guilty until I prove, at my expense, that I was just sightseeing. So now I have to hire a lawyer, at my cost not yours, just to fly around and camp in Alaska. Lets see.....I am flying an airplane, I have a gun, and I circled a sheep. Just by proximity and association.....I am GUILTY. Really?

Unless you are extremely naive you know this will happen. Power is always abused. Our government is totally out of control as it is, and this is just adding to it. This is just bad legislation in every respect.

I request that you rescind this poorly conceived, hastily passed, and gross abuse of power, piece of legislation. Step back, think, and come up with a better plan. First question to ask, "is there really a problem?" Or is this being blown way out of proportion? Is this a solution looking for a problem? From this outsiders position it sure looks that way.

Thank you for considering my comments. From a non-hunter who just likes to fly and camp but WILL be affected by this legislation.

Sincerely

Bill Rusk



Special Teleconference: Dall Sheep Hunting 5/22/2015

Public Comment by:

Birch A. Yuknis
5035 N Flying Circus Circle
Wasilla, Alaska 99654
byuknis@aol.com

Alaska Board of Game,

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments. I am for fully rescinding all of Proposal 207, of which Option One was passed at a recent BOG meeting.

The Department of Public Safety (See attached letter) stated that they supported Option Two but that Options One and Three "would be extremely difficult to enforce..."

I agree with the Department of Law fully on the unenforceability. There is too much ambiguity in the wording of Proposal 207 Option One. The "what if's" can go on and on. What about the people who are looking, not spotting, sheep who are not hunters or have no hunting intentions? I do not believe there is a legal definition of "spotting." There are already laws in place to address hunter and wildlife harassment with aircraft.

Legal (after 207) aerial reconnaissance can easily be confused with aerial "spotting." A person on the ground watching a pilot fly by a ram that the pilot may not even have noticed could claim that the pilot was "spotting."

Option One also limits a hunter's opportunity to identify areas where s/he may want to hunt after the season opens. Sheep move or migrate during the season. Sheep are "pushed" by hunters and other wildlife from where they were at the beginning of the season. By not allowing any inseason aerial reconnaissance a sheep hunter who hunts after the season opener is unable to adequately identify areas that would be more conducive to her/his type of sheep hunting.



We live in a busy world. Not everyone can take ten days to two weeks off of work and spend it in the field for a sheep hunt. (I would love to have that option) Many of us resident sheep hunters have 3-4 day weekends in which to sheep hunt. Without any in season aerial reconnaissance a 3-4 day sheep hunt will not be feasible. I can't afford to take two weeks off work to do a proper sheep hunt because I have to work to pay for my airplane.

The BOG generated this proposal (I am not going into how that came about) to try and help with the crowding of resident sheep hunters that is a perceived problem from a recent survey that Dr. Todd Brinkman conducted. Option One of Proposal 207 will make this crowding even worse. The first week of sheep season is already the most crowded time of the season. Now everyone is going to have to do their reconnaissance before the season and want to hunt the opening week even more leading to more crowding. So the BOG's stated reason for wanting this Proposal is actually going to make the problem worse.

If the BOG wants to actually help with the problem a properly moderated and diverse Sheep Working Group needs to be formed and given specific guidelines. The problem is who do you put in the working group? Does the Working Group need to focus on increasing resident opportunity or nonresident opportunity? Is the Working Group there to just increase the number of Sheep on the mountain? Would the Working Group be focused on the Alaska Constitution that has repeatedly been interpreted to give a preference for Resident access to the State's Fish and Game.

In closing I again want to state my preference for rescinding all of Proposal 207 and that a proper Sheep Working Group could be a good idea if done properly.

Thank you for your time,



Birch A Yuknis



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**

GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Public Safety

DIVISION OF ALASKA WILDLIFE TROOPERS
Office of the Director

5700 East Tudor Road
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Chairman Ted Spraker
Alaska Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Spraker,

The following comments outline the position the Department of Public Safety, Division of Alaska Wildlife Troopers have on the proposals up for consideration during the February 2015 Board of Game meeting in Wasilla.

When the board considers seasons and/or bag limit changes, the Alaska Wildlife Troopers request every effort be made to align seasons and bag limits with adjacent game management units/sub units creating consistency of the regulations for the public. When the board considers proposals with allocation or biological concerns, we strive to remain neutral.

Alaska Wildlife Troopers recognize regulations are developed by the Alaska Board of Game through the public process to support management plans and rely on public compliance with regulations to achieve success. Alaska Wildlife Troopers respectfully request the board recognize any new regulation or area restriction may result in additional burdens on Alaska Wildlife Troopers due to our limited resources.

Sincerely,

Paul L. Fussey

Lieutenant, Alaska Wildlife Troopers

**Alaska Wildlife Troopers Responses to the Board of Game Proposals
2014/15
Central/Southwest Region**

Proposal 53:

5 AAC 92.044 Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers and we will be asking the board to leave the current regulation in place. This proposal would be in conflict with 5AAC 92.210(7), game that died of natural causes may be used as food or bait, if the game is not moved from the location where it was found.

Proposal 71:

5AAC 92.072 Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers and we will ask the board to leave the current regulation in place. This proposal is similar to proposal 72 and requires participants in the Community harvest hunt to document their past participation in the customary and traditional use of the hunt area and wild resources. This proposals point system configuration cannot be enforced and is open to interpretation by an individual filling out the application. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers would be unable to accurately document what types of products were produced from the harvest, what type of training was given by multiple generations, and what was the cost associated with the harvest.

Proposal 72:

5AAC 92.072 Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers and we will ask the board to leave the current regulation in place. This proposal is similar to proposal 71 and requires participants in the Community harvest hunt to document their past participation in the customary and traditional use of the hunt area and wild resources. This proposals point system configuration cannot be enforced and is open to interpretation by an individual filling out the application.

Proposal 75:

5AAC 92.072 Community subsistence harvest hunt area and permit conditions.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers for the following reason and we will ask the board to not adopt the proposal as it is currently written. The proposal would require all Community subsistence harvest hunters to bring the harvested moose to the Cantwell or Glennallen ADF&G office as soon as they come out of the field. The definition of field is broad



enough that an individual could harvest a moose on the permit and never have to bring it the ADF&G office for months. The Alaska Wildlife Troopers suggest the proposal be amended to read "hunters bring the harvested moose to the Cantwell or Glennallen ADF&G office within 96 hours of harvest.

Proposal 79:

5AAC 85.045 Hunting and bag limits for moose.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers and we ask the board to not pass this proposal due to the following concerns. If ADFG opens and closes the any bull community harvest permits throughout the season it will be extremely hard to enforce. When ADFG closes the any bull permit when the quota is met resource users can be checked for compliance. If the any bull community harvest hunt is opened and closed periodically throughout the season and on alternating days AWT would have an extremely difficult job of enforcing the permit. An individual could harvest a bull on the any bull permit during a closed day but checked on an open day. The current regulation is enforceable.

Proposal 129:

5AAC 92.044(b) (10) Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or scent lures. Remove the requirements to clean up contaminated soil from bear bait stations for Southeast Region Units.

This proposal is not supported by Alaska Wildlife Troopers and we ask the board to not pass this proposal due to the following reasons. The requirement to remove all of the contaminated soil is a public safety tool to ensure bears stop using the bear bait station at the close of the season. Numerous bear bait stations have been documented where the hunter has poured gallons of grease on the ground and trees to attract bears. The grease has killed all of the vegetation and continued to attract bears long after the season has ended. This regulation is a deterrent to hunters who may clean up their barrels and other items but do not want to clean up the soil.

Proposal 201:

5AAC 92.220(i) Salvage of game meat, furs, and hides. This proposal is submitted and supported by the Alaska Wildlife Troopers. This proposal was submitted at the Juneau Board of Game meeting and was listed as RC038. This proposal states: a person who has wounded game shall make every reasonable and lawful effort to retrieve and salvage that game, except methods and means for taking game prohibited by statute or by regulations in 5AAC 92.080-5AAC 92.100.

This proposal will eliminate resource users going to court to define what was reasonable to them when they retrieved their wounded game. In a previous case an individual attempted to use radio communications along with an aircraft to dispatch a wounded moose he claimed he had wounded. This case is an example of the difficulty the Alaska Wildlife Troopers endure when



trying to prosecute an individual. An enforcement concern for the Alaska Wildlife Troopers is without a change in the regulations to include "lawful" an individual could find it "reasonable" to use a helicopter to retrieve a wounded Dall sheep or Mt. Goat. This is currently illegal under 5AAC 92.080(3); however, does this meet the reasonable standard?

The proposal would still allow an individual to use artificial light to track and dispatch a wounded game animal, without the use of a motorized vehicle. An individual would still be allowed to locate a wounded game animal with the use of an aircraft; however, if the animal was still alive a hunter would not be allowed to shoot the animal until 3a.m. the following day.

The Big Game Commercial Services Board changed the guide requirements to any "lawful" means when retrieving game to eliminate the vague definition of reasonable. This proposal would also pertain to the guiding industry regarding the definition of lawful.

The Alaska Wildlife Troopers ask the board to pass this proposal due to the aforementioned reasons.

Proposal 207:

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

The proposal is comprised of three separate changes and the Alaska Wildlife Troopers support the second option and ask the board to pass this option due to the following reasons. The second option states it is against the law to hunt or help someone else take a Dall sheep until 2 p.m. the following day you have flown. Options one and three would be extremely difficult to enforce due to wording and multiple requirements in each option. Option two extends the normal restrictions on same day airborne from 3a.m. to 2p.m. This is the easiest and most concise of the three options to enforce pertaining to the restriction of using aircraft while sheep hunting.



FOUNDED IN 1887 BY

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

4/24/2015

To: Alaska Board of Game
Re: Position on aircraft hunting

Dear Sirs:

We have been asked to clarify the Boone and Crockett Club's position on aircraft with regards to time frames and use as it applies to the club's acceptance of record book entries under the club's rules of fair chase.

The Club was asked to clarify this issue in 2007 and our position remains the same today. Please reference paragraph four from a July 4th, 2007 letter from Eldon Buckner, Chairman- Records of North American Big Game Committee to Wayne Kubat, "In summary, Boone and Crockett is going to continue to accept trophies taken legally in Alaska as long as the required time after flying, as specified in Alaska regulations, has been honestly observed."

For your reference, I have included Mr. Buckner's original letter from July 4th, 2007 that addresses this issue in a more detailed context.

Please do hesitate to contact me directly or B&C headquarters should you need additional information.

Sincerely,

Tony Caligiuri

Member, Boone and Crockett Board of Directors
Deputy Chairman, Big Game Records Outreach Committee
tcal@boytharness.com

641-342-6773 ext. 229



FOUNDED IN 1887 BY

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

ELDON "BUCK" BUCKNER

CHAIRMAN - RECORDS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME COMMITTEE

July 4, 2007

Mr. Wayne Kubat
P.O. Box 874867
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Dear Wayne:

As promised, I placed the topic of airborne hunting on the agenda at the recent meeting of the Records Committee held in conjunction with B&C Awards in Ft. Worth recently.

This subject has come up repeatedly and elicits strong opinions as you might guess. However, I brought it up this time with your various comments in mind, and also in consideration of the PROFESSIONAL ETHICS STANDARDS FOR GUIDES published in the Statutes and Regulations of the Big Game Services Board of Alaska. As you know, under Field Craft Standards, article (8) states that guides shall "avoid using an aircraft in any manner to spot big game for the purpose of taking a specific animal." This appears to possibly conflict with an earlier provision under C (6) requiring the guide to "advise a client before a hunt of the game population in the hunting area." In large, remote areas, an aircraft may be the only practical way in which a guide is able to assess the game population in his area.

I do not intend to argue the right or wrongness of the Board's rules. However, I appreciate their efforts to encourage fair chase hunting, and in trying to provide for legitimate aircraft use, maybe the wording in (8) above is overly broad. For example, if a guide is flying his area before moose season to get an idea of the moose population so as to inform his clients, and sees a couple outstanding bulls, he's not likely to forget the general area he spotted them in, even though the primary purpose of his flying was not to pinpoint a specific animal.

In summary, Boone & Crockett is going to continue to accept trophies taken legally in Alaska, as long as the required time after flying, as specified in Alaska regulations, has been honestly observed. That position is officially documented but it in no way is meant to encourage the unsportsmanlike abuse of aircraft usage. However, it likewise does not, nor ever was originally, meant to preclude entry of a trophy animal that might have been spotted from air some months before it was stalked and shot.

That said, if a specific trophy animal is scouted from the air for a particular client, then hunted the next day, and the above provision (8) is part of the law, then that animal could not be entered, because the animal would not meet the requirement of having been taken "in full compliance with the game laws or regulations of the federal government or of any state", etc. as specified in



Article IX of the B&C Entry Affidavit, which hunters must sign for any hunter-taken trophy.

Of course, these days, many people are willing to make false statements. But, doing so in conjunction with B&C entries puts any existing entries in jeopardy and prevents any future record entries for that person. We don't play favorites or politics with this provision, as some well-known hunters have discovered in recent years.

We are not going to re-print or re-word the aircraft usage provision at this time as all our score charts, etc. were just recently re-printed to incorporate other changes.

I'm well aware of the conflict between guides/outfitters in Alaska regarding aircraft usage. It is nearly impossible to establish regulations that are entirely fair to all parties under all circumstances. Of course, if everyone observed the "spirit of fair chase" to start with, there would be little need for extensive regulations.

I hope this has been of some help to you. You may show this letter to others at your discretion.

Sincerely,

Eldon "Buck" Buckner

Eldon "Buck" Buckner
Vice-President,
Hunting and North American Big Game Records
Boone & Crockett Club

Copy: Jack Reneau



Submitted By

Brad

Submitted On

5/15/2015 11:38:09 AM

Affiliation

As a resident hunter who does not own an airplane, I am against proposal 207 for many reasons. All resident pilots I know use their airplanes to diminish hunting pressure instead of increase it. This proposal which does nothing to make the numbers of sheep on the mountains better Or decrease the pressure, actually makes things worse. Please repeal this proposal and let's come up with a solution that makes things better for everyone and not worse. Thank you.



From: [Brad and Sandy Scotton](#)
To: [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Proposal 207
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2015 5:36:09 PM

I just received notice from a friend that the BOG is considering rescinding the recently passed regulation on the use of aircraft and sheep hunting. I strong support the board reconsidering that proposal. It is essentially unenforceable, and makes virtually all pilots criminals for so much as looking at a potential walking route into a valley. Pilots and aircraft owners are often maligned and persecuted just for flying. This rule does nothing to help the situation, and does not solve any biological problems.

I realize this is late, but I hope I hope the BOG reconsiders that regulation.

Thanks

Brad Scotton



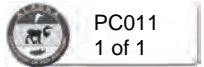
From: [Brett Haker](#)
To: [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Aircraft Sheep Spotting
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2015 7:14:49 AM

To whom it may concern,

I wholeheartedly support the use of aircraft to spot sheep. And therefore request the recindance of the rule.

Thank you,
Brett Haker
Chugiak, AK
907-854-3304

Sent from my iPhone



RE: Proposal 207 – 5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions. Modify sheep hunting opportunities statewide.

BOG members,

My name is Brian DeMarco and I am a resident Alaskan who hunts sheep annually. I am writing you today to ask that you **rescind** proposition 207 as I do not think it addresses the issue of declining sheep populations. This proposition as written will create further strife between Guides and resident hunters and will turn known landing strips into crowded camping sites for many airplanes and hunting parties. Safety is a concern for this centralized activity as well.

As an example, in 2014 I there were six different parties staging at the same time on the Kongakut with approximately 25 hunters, comprised of resident hunters and outfitters with clients. The area was over booked and created unnecessary tensions between resident and non-resident hunters. I myself was hunting in a drain nearby and experienced continued disruption on my hunt and stalks by a piolet searching for legal rams.

If this proposal becomes law it will be difficult to enforce and the minimal state and federal resources will be bombarded with calls that get little or no resolution. Offenders continue because they already know how stretched government resources are during sheep season trying to prevent illegal spotting for sheep or a new sheep area.

I believe the proposal negatively impacts Alaskan residents.

I believe there are other ways to write a proposal with alternatives that maintain sheep populations and provide Alaska Residents preference priority.

Sincerely,
Brian DeMarco

5569 Kenai Fjords Loop
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Submitted By
Ca\$H Joyce
Submitted On
5/1/2015 12:17:38 PM
Affiliation
Outfitter / Alaskan

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Box 1157
Chickaloon, Alaska 99674

I was born in Alaska in 1970, never left. In my lifetime i have seen the states population triple. Those who live here and endure, deserve the right to live off the land to the extent that it can provide. Unfortunately it cannot provide all our percieved needs any longer. With that ill focus on the Sheep controversy. I have been a guide for Dall Sheep for over 15yrs. I have seen the changes in the Talkeetnas and Chugach in first person. In fact, after the decline in population, i feel partly responsible. In my defense i would not know any better unless i lived through the result of my actions.

If i were to sum up what i have learned about being a successful guide in the industry.... I carried a hand held aircraft radio to contact aircraft in my immediate vicinity to let them know that i was hunting right there and to back off. It was successful most of the time, provided that the aircraft had radio and was aware of such matters. Afterall, flying is one of the freedoms that Alaskans enjoy! I myself live in Chickaloon and fly as much as possible during all seasons in the Mountains. While guiding afoot I was always cognizant of a locals right and experience and willing to move and relocate if there was a clash in position. Afterall, I guide for business and frequently, a resident has limited opportunity for such endeavors and i respect why they live here.

The change is evident and the need for resolve is imminent. I think the Chugach draw was a success, if you can consider from when it was implemented. In retrospect, they might have bounced back sooner if their was a little more buffer (we all learn from the past). The Talkeetnas are still under duress for sheep, Imagine where they would be now if they went to draw when the Chugach went to draw? Unit 19 an the Brooks took an increase in pressure because of the Chugach draw. Their fate is on the downfall.

Unfortunately humans wont govern themselves very well in allocating their percieved entitlement of everything the land has to offer. Concessions are definately a good option, there are some mindful operators out there that posses the respect and sense to "said" resource. A statewide draw is a good option, I think the ADFG has a great management routine. We are cutting edge here in AK as far as the infostructure to get that done. The baselines are set and routinely modified. That would be a simple fix if people could let go of their own agendas and think about the Dall Sheep they are arguing about. That would limit the transporter and outfitter delima to the natural selection of a lottery.

As far as the Outfitter / Resident allocation in the DRAWING AREAS, let us use our test piece the Chugach. As far as i can read, the Non-resident allocation is around 10%. That is an important number to clarify to unhappy residents who think this is unjust. I think to see it on paper and to read the uses of the proceeds are important in quelling some argument. The importance of a Aug 10 season to September 20 is necessary for distribution. I like the archery specific peripheral seasons too for distribution. A smart hunter / outfitter might think about this if they were at odds with competition or pressure during their hunt.

Overall i think that we have the knowledge and infrastructure that we need. Talking about Sheep is better done in the field while hunting.



Submitted By
Christopher Corey
Submitted On
5/19/2015 10:49:48 AM
Affiliation
private citizen, Alaskan

Sheep hunting is dangerous. I feel Prop 207 will make it more so. It will create a concentration of aircraft similar to spotting for herring, which has produced many mid-air collisions and deaths. I am not a pilot, yet already feel the stress levels of every Super Cub skipper in the state rise. Stress can lead to mistakes, and on that stage, mistakes are fatal. Purely from an aviation standpoint, from a guy who has been in a Super Cub desperately trying to find a landing spot, PLEASE do not adopt prop 207, my mother thanks you.

I went on my first hunt last August, it was a life changing event. The sheep meat has improved my health, my attitude, my life. It was the most satisfying thing I've ever done in a pretty good life. Do not limit Alaskans opportunities to have this life changing experience. Thank you.

Submitted By
Clint
Submitted On
5/18/2015 1:58:35 AM
Affiliation
Registered guide

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I believe we do not need these extra hurdles in sheep hunting. Looking for legal Rams from a plane is ethical hunting to make sure it is a legal ram. Also older people that can't afford to pay a guide till they have saved for 30 years don't need to walk extra just because the sheep is in a venerable spot! 2 pm the next day may put you coming off the mountain in the dark or overnight on the mountain and be a safety issue! Just like packing a hind quarter of a moose and having bulging discs in your back because it is easier for the trooper to tell how much meat was taken off the moose. We don't need more things to make sheep hunting harder or more dangerous.

Respectfully,

Clint Miller

Dear Board Members and Chairman Spraker,

This letter is in response to the current proposal 207 put before the Board of Game regarding airplane use in sheep hunting. The current abuses in the system regarding airplane use are rampant and changing the way guides and outfitters have to conduct their field operations. There has been a whirlwind of suggestions and approaches we can take to affect changes, however, none of these suggestions or issues can even be remotely addressed until we come up with effective enforcement. I know you get tired of hearing that from me, but it all boils down to enforcing what laws we currently have on the books before we can be effective enacting even more legislation. If I was asked by someone outside our industry some questions regarding the current sheep dilemma it might go like this:

Q: As a thirty year industry professional, what would you say is the biggest issue facing sheep hunters in Alaska?

A: The illicit use of aircraft in pursuit of the sheep.

The problem with the current climate of sheep hunting in this state is that most of the sheep hunters are not spot and stalk fairchase hunters they are spot and shoot hunters. Airplanes are a useful tool for our industry, but they have been abused in regards to sheep hunting. I would venture to say, that over 75% of the sheep harvested by GUIDES in this state are spotted and dead within 24-48 hours. It is not a hunt it is a hit. Fairchase and ethics are out the window.

Q: Should the aircraft pilots be more regulated during the sheep season?

A: Yes, they shouldn't be allowed to go around combing the mountains for sheep to assassinate. Sheep hunting is a mountain sport, best done with your boots tied tight. It is wasn't intended to be an aeronautical sport.

Q: What kind of regulations/restrictions would you like to see?

A: No spotting, clients get dropped at camp and the hunting commences from there, take your "fair chase" chances just like everybody else.

I hunt in one of the most contentious GMU's in the State (20-04), and was forced to radically alter my hunting plans last fall due to the heinous activities of two unscrupulous airplane hunting guides, who each had two airplanes going full time in pursuit of game. This caused one of my regular clients to leave in disgust early from his hunt and I had to move two of my clients to a camp already full with hunters and overharvest in one area of my GMU to insulate my hunters

from horrendous airplane activity. I was the established Guide Outfitter in the area and have been hunting in the same GMU in 20-04 for all of my guiding career(23 + years). I have watched each year with increasing disgust as outside guides pile into the unit with no interest in maintaining a healthy population, only interest in filling a tag. When they are done, they pick up and leave.....a bad footprint.

Q: What would be your first change to help solve the problem?

A: Exclusive guide use areas. If it is unconstitutional, change the legislation or go to IFQ type model like fishing industry.

Until the State brings fish and wildlife protection and fish and game and the board of game together under one umbrella we are not going to solve any problems. In this modern day of electronic technology, the fact that these three agencies cannot effectively and fluidly share information is archaic and unacceptable.

Q: Would you recommend this profession to an up and coming young person wanting to break into the industry?

A: No, I don't think there is any future in it. The State agencies have been derelict in their duties to the land and the animals.

I have been a hunting guide for 30+ years, and in that time, I have personally been involved in the harvest of 150+ trophy Dall rams, so I believe I can speak with authority about sheep hunting in our state. I would like to be included in the sheep working group that is to be formulated. Thank you for your consideration.

Coke W. Wallace, Master Guide

Midnight Sun Safaris

907-978-0929

Submitted By
Cole hawkins
Submitted On
5/17/2015 11:45:25 PM
Affiliation

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Chugiak, Alaska 99567

Dear board of game I am writing in opposition to bill 207. I feel it is nothing more than one group pushing there agenda. It will create an unsafe environment in an already dangerous activity, many pilots will not take the proper time it takes to survey a landing site for hazards. It will also not take away from the overcrowding but add to it for many pilots will not want to risk being turned in by some other hunter on the ground for flying through sheep country. All in all we already have laws in place to protect the animals against rouge pilots we don't need more regulation trying to make criminals out of good honest hard hunting Alaskans.



Submitted By
Craig
Submitted On
5/11/2015 8:42:53 PM
Affiliation

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Proposal 207

I am in support of Proposal 207, limiting scouting Dall Sheep by plane. Please keep the proposal in place during the sheep season. It is a matter of fair chase and protection of the sheep resource from overhunting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Craig Kasemodel

Submitted By
Daniel Jirak
Submitted On
5/13/2015 9:16:16 AM
Affiliation

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Wasilla, Alaska 99654

Repeal or re-word prop 207. The way it is worded is overbearing and causes many unintended issues. I think if you reworded it as following it would have less unintended consequences and still meet the BOG intent.

[From August 9th to September 20 the use of aircraft to judge Dall Sheep for trophy/legal status for the purposes to hunt/harvest is prohibited]

The way the current regulation reads goes far beyond the BOG intent when they passed it. The BOG intent during discussion was to stop the practice of buzzing sheep to judge them thus affecting other hunters and not being ethical under fair chase. The wording in this regulation prohibits far more than that practice and ties the hands of resident hunters during season when going to unfamiliar areas to change plans based on weather, crowding, changes in landing areas. This causes a serious safety issue if pilots are worried about getting reported if they want to look for a different spot that would be safer or less crowded for them to land/hunt.

Scouting areas for game is not considered unethical under fair chase by Boone and Crockett only specifically targeting animals with an airplane is. Lets be honest about the guides who support this, they are long time guides who have been in a certain area for many years and know every valley. Sheep tend to use the same areas year after year and its not hard to know where the rams will be if you've been in the area for more than a few years. So restrict residents with airplanes and they will have less competition, pretty simple.

I listened to the recorded BOG deliberation of prop 207 during the last meeting and Mr. Spraker and Mr. Turner said the following. Nate Turner on 3/18 at 5:14:34 specifically states that this will not disallow scouting sheep from a plane (it does!!). While he also condones it, if spotting from the middle of the valley and a higher altitude; and that the intent is to prevent harassment of sheep in order to judge them by circling. Spraker 5:29:04 admits to asking his pilots to circle around so he can look at the terrain, creeks, etc... I am sure never looking at white spots and if he did incidentally see them from his reconnaissance circle he would go the other way or else be faced with charges.

These actions are now illegal following Prop 207 the way it is worded.

I am also against a special sheep working group. We already have working groups made of the public, they are called ACs. A sheep working group will just be a select group of people pushing for their special interests. In certain areas of the state where crowding and competition is high (19C and 20A) it is just time to make the hard decision and start limiting hunters on a 80% resident/ 20% non-resident allocation, similiar to other states.



Submitted By
Danielle Tirrell
Submitted On
5/14/2015 6:25:33 PM
Affiliation

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Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

As a pilot, I love to fly my super cub. I enjoy flying it for all sorts of activities including hunting. I think that airplanes are a useful tool for getting hunters into remote locations in Alaska. I do not think that using airplanes to spot sheep is very sporting nor do I think that it is good for the overall health of the resource. It will be argued that folks have been using aircraft for many years to spot game in the pursuit of the hunt and this is true. It is however no longer a viable option if we want to keep up Alaska's amazing sheep hunting. As the very unofficial airport manager in Coldfoot, I talk to many hunters both pilots and non-pilots who are dismayed when they are on the stalk of a ram and overhead there is a circling plane. Not circling for landing but looking for game. Many a stalk has been ruined by the low circling airplane that sends the sheep running. I believe that there is room for all types of hunters but the aircraft spotting leaves the playing field so unlevel that it is near impossible to compete with ones spotting scope.

Submitted By
Dirk Nickisch
Submitted On
5/14/2015 2:47:43 PM
Affiliation
Coyote Air

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I am in favor of the new regulation as it stands.

I believe that the quality of our sheep hunts has been on a slow decline for many years. Dahl Sheep are a trophy animal, and should be treated as such. Although there are many variables in sheep management we only have a absolute control over one, and that is how they are hunted.

I think that the proposal of limiting the aircraft use in sheep hunting is a fair and equitable first step in raising the quality of the sheep hunt experience for everyone. I know that the board has taken a lot of criticism for this proposal, but management of the resources requires hard and unpopular choices to be made. If the board reverses its stand on this, it will not only revert back to previous practices, but by all accounts will add validity to those that say aircraft use is necessary for hunting of these animals.

As an airtaxi I do not see how this will have any negative impact on our business. We have always advicated for Fair Chase hunting of animals. I see an increased safety in th eimplementation of this regulation, for it will eliminate the current dangerous practices of pilots who are spending there time looking at sheep and not watching for traffic and communicating with others.

I hope that the board remains strong in its decision to limit the use of aircraft to transportation to and from the field of hunters and there equipment.

Best Regards,

Dirk Nickisch

RE: BOG, Comments on no fly to spot sheep regulation.

Dear Board of Game Members;

I support the new no fly to spot sheep regulation during sheep season. I do not support the creation of a working group of stake holders to address the matter further at this time.

I have concerns on how the regulation can be or will be enforced on any pilot and if it is legal to apply it to the commercial pilots.

The new regulation is supported because:

1) The rule DOES NOT;

a) prevent access,

b) encourage "road hunting" by aircraft;

c) prevent base camp or spike camp moves or camp re-supply trips, or emergency trips by plane;

2) The rule DOES:

a) Prevent a single plane user from continually disturbing game and many hunters over a large area on a daily basis.

b) Level the playing field during the season between those that hire a plane and those that own a plane or those that access by other means.

c) discourage "cherry picking" the sheep.

One has to assume it will be fairly hard for FWP to prosecute a violator so I expect only the most egregious violations to be prosecuted. The argument that the regulation effects safety is baseless.

If the commercial industry is correct and the regulation is not enforceable against them, then the BOG will have to look at another way to control that aspect. There are ways to eliminate what has been called the air taxi exemption with out legislative action. One way is for the BOG to create a statewide control use area that eliminates the use of aircraft for any big game hunters except for guides, private pilots and licensed transporters. Another way to address the exemption is under unlawful methods of taking game: exemptions (92.085). If the BOG would eliminate the air taxi exemption then the air taxis would have to be licensed transporters. The Big Game Commercial Services Board has authority to regulate transporters now. However they have refused to do so using the "Air Taxi Exemption" as an excuse. Note: I doubt air taxis or transporters are being hired to road hunt sheep by plane during the season near as much as guides and private resident pilots hunt this way. However if the Board can not apply the no fly to spot sheep regulation to include air taxis, they soon will be the only ones allowed to do it and it will become a problem.

The BOG has taken many years addressing sheep hunting. The use of planes and the problems they cause has been at the core all along. The new regulation should effect only those that wish to cherry pick and "road hunt" sheep by plane. Maybe those types of hunters have been causing the most problems all along? I say give the regulation a chance to work.

Smokey Don Duncan

299 Alvin St

Fairbanks AK 99712



Submitted By

Emilie Nelson

Submitted On

5/15/2015 4:39:39 PM

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Scouting an animal with an airplane rather than relying on your cunning and physical prowess (and, usually, a certain amount of luck) is too close for comfort to unsportsmanlike conduct. Give the sheep a fighting chance. If someone wants the bragging rights that go along with a sheep's head hanging on the wall, let him/her earn them!



Submitted By
Henry Flatow
Submitted On
5/13/2015 9:50:02 PM
Affiliation

I have been hunting sheep in Alaska since 2003 and I have never had an aircraft disturb me on a single hunt as of to date. This proposal will have a negative effect for some sheep hunters in Alaska. First of all the are different seasons for sheep in Alaska and some seasons dont even start until the 5th of September and those sheep hunters wont have a chance to even look around there unit for sheep, and or to look at the terrain for accessability, camping locations and or a water supply. Another reason is using an airplane to look for another hunters camp so you dont disturb anothers hunt, and go to another area. Looking for sheep out of a plane has been accuring for many years before i started hunting Alaska and theres no reason to change it. Alot of people use planes in Alaska and never disturb the sheep.

Submitted By
Henry Tiffany
Submitted On
5/17/2015 9:13:11 AM
Affiliation

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Dear Alaska Board of Game Members,
In light of the special meeting on Dall sheep that will occur on May 28th, 2015, please accept and consider my comments on this subject.

Firstly, I would sincerely like to thank you for passing proposal 207 at your March 2015 meeting. In some ways your decision to promote ethical, fair chase hunting of Dall Sheep in Alaska feels like a landmark decision and one that has been long, long overdue. I do believe proposal 207 will help to strengthen Alaska's conversation efforts and will encourage ALL hunters engaged in Dall Sheep hunt to do so in a more ethical and fair-chase manner and will eventually lead to less over-crowding in the sheep mountains.

My estimation is that about 90% of resident hunters DO NOT utilize their own aircraft when sheep hunting so the positive ramifications of proposal 207 will eventually be felt broadly. There is a small percentage of residents that do use their own aircraft to spot sheep and a larger percentage of guides that do as well (I would estimate 60% to 70% of guides may do so) and so those two user groups will have to adjust their hunting practices and tactics and conform to a more ethical standard, which is the way it should be, and should have been, for a long time. I do not see that as a hardship or undue burden by any means because the majority of resident hunters, and a reasonable percentage of guides, have been successfully hunting sheep ethically and under the fair-chase clause for many years so it can be done, as is proven every year by those hunters that harvest rams WITHOUT first having to spot them from the air. It would be a real travesty were you, the Board of Game, to even consider rescinding proposal 207 much less actually do so. To the contrary, frankly, I would like to see the concept of proposal 207 significantly broadened and adopted to include other big game species in Alaska, including Moose, Brown Bear and Grizzly.

Additionally, there seems no need whatsoever to extend the call for proposals relating to statewide hunting seasons and bag limits for sheep nor extending the proposal deadline. Proposal 208, which relates directly to this, has been deferred to a later meeting as I understand it and there has been at least the last seven years' worth of time for the public to offer proposals on this topic, which they have done amply. Perhaps the public can offer "methods and means" proposals but I think the Board of Game has a very clear idea of the source and nature of many of these "sheep season dates, allocation and bag limit" type of proposals, which you have been inundated with the last five to ten years; as such there is no justification in my mind to extend the call for proposals nor extend the proposal deadline.

Lastly, I would like to offer my support and encouragement for the creation and establishment of a sheep working group, which I think could prove critical as you move forward.

Again, my most heartfelt and sincere thank you for passing Proposal 207 into regulation. I would be appalled were you to rescind it but I would certainly encourage you in the future to consider expanding it to include other big game species in Alaska.

I thank you all for your continued time and consideration and your service and dedication to our state, its natural resources and its people.

Sincerely,

Henry D. Tiffany IV
Fairbanks, Alaska

Submitted By
Herbert Mann
Submitted On
4/29/2015 10:53:44 PM
Affiliation
Alaska Outdoorsman

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Please not approve this change. Please do not think that all flights into sheep areas during hunting season are for hunting sheep. They could be sightseeing, shooting photographs, or just admiring the beauty of Alaska.

Please not approve this change. Please do not create a change that limits one of the basic freedoms that we as Alaskan have enjoyed in our state. The Bush Pilot is loved as one of the basic intrigues and enjoyments of living in Alaska. It is why many of us have raised our families, worked, and lived in Alaska for this basic pursuit.

Please not approve this change. Please do not create a change that will ultimately damage more of our Alaska Wilderness. I believe that the approval of this will drive the sheep further into the back country by apply pressure to the easier accessed areas. This would ultimately encouraging more people to reach deeper into the backcountry by roads, trails and rivers causing more permeant scaring and damage.

Please not approve this change. Please do to limit the private individual from flying their plane to look for sheep. This will give the Transporters, Outfitters and Guides a huge advantage in the harvesting of sheep over the private pilot. The Transporters, Outfitters and Guides spend a considerable time flying around the sheep habitat and will be able to spot, locate, track and develop seasonal and yearly pattern that give a huge advantage over a private individual.

Please not approve this change.

Submitted By
Ivan Clark
Submitted On
5/18/2015 5:53:02 PM
Affiliation

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Dear Mr. Chariman and Board of Game members,

RE: Proposal 207

I'm writing in support of proposal 207. I believe that passing this regulation is the first step in putting the hunt back in sheep hunting. Using aircraft to drop hunters off in the mountains is completely different than using aircraft to spot sheep from the air with the intent to them.

I believe there is little difference between using an unmanned drone to spot animals with the intent to hunt/kill, as there is with spotting animals from a plane. The plane has a range 100x greater than a drone, and can transport the hunter into a position to kill the animal spotted. Banning drones has nearly unanimous support throughout the hunting world, yet using aircraft to do the same thing is somehow controversial or acceptable?

An airplane can cover more country in 5 minutes than a hunter on foot can cover in a day. I can't fault a human for being lazy and using a plane to find an animal, but I can call a spade a spade... What I find interesting is the BGCSB has an ethics clause relating to aerial spotting of game with the intent to harvest (which isn't generally followed or enforced), and also one of the most prominent conservation organizations in the world, Boone and Crockett (B&C) opposes the use of aircraft for spotting.

The first line of the B&C Entry Affidavit for All Hunter-Taken Trophies includes the following:

For the purpose of entry into the Boone and Crockett Club's® records, North American big game harvested by the use of the following methods or under the following conditions are ineligible:

1. **Spotting or herding game from the air, followed by landing in its vicinity for the purpose of pursuit and shooting;**
2. **Herding or chasing with the aid of any motorized equipment;**
3. **Etc...**

http://www.boone-crockett.org/pdfs/EntryAffidavit_2015.pdf?area=bgRecords

The Big Game Commercial Service Statues include the following:

ARTICLE 3

PROFESSIONAL ETHIC STANDARDS FOR GUIDES

12 AAC 75.340. PROFESSIONAL ETHICS STANDARDS FOR GUIDES.

(d) Field craft standards. All classes of guides shall

(1) use every lawful means at the licensee's disposal to bag a wounded animal while it is in danger of escaping, or, in a serious emergency, while human life or well-being is endangered;

(2) ...

(8) **avoid using an aircraft in any manner to spot big game for the purpose of taking a specific animal**, unless,

(A) hunting brown, grizzly, or black bears ...

I've read numerous comments, and listened to hours of testimony concerning this proposal. I've also talked with many private pilots who regularly hunt sheep, or drop off sheep hunters, all of whom are in favor of this proposal. The private pilots in favor of this proposal all echoed the same theme. It will make it a bit harder for them to find/kill a sheep, but they'd just as soon give up the practice, than give up sheep hunting.

It seems, the vast majority of those who are against this proposal stand the most to lose (easy hunting), which is understandable. In many



of the written and oral remarks the opponents state that they readily use aircraft to spot sheep and then pursue them. While they may not kill the sheep, they may or may not have impacted another's hunt, or in another case, they may hop in the plane and go look for yet another sheep, and start the process over again. This increases the impact to more hunters in the field.

My experience with sheep hunting (11 successful hunts) is that once a ram is spotted odds are he will stick around in that same spot for a few days (or longer) until he's pushed out, or leaves on his own. Spotting from the air, not only exponentially increases your chance of finding a legal ram, it increases your chance of killing him because you know where he is and can walk to him. Hunting from the ground requires a lot more leg work to find that ram, yet odds are once he's found he will still be there when you finally get to where he was.

I've looked at the ADF&G harvest statistics comparing residents who use private aircraft and air taxi transport for sheep hunting. The success rate between the two is very similar, at about 39% (see comment above). Looking at the days spent to harvest, the **air taxi hunters spent 5.7 days** to harvest versus the **private aircraft hunters at 4.1 days** on (that's nearly a 40% increase of success/time). What's more, **non-residents** who used listed aircraft as transport, spent **4.9 days to harvest!** It's clear that the residents with private aircraft have an advantage, even over guided hunters!

Spotting game from the air with the intent to kill it is, in my opinion flat out unsporting, Boone and Crocket agrees. The BGCSB also believes it to be a violation of ethics, yet there are guides against this proposal?

The most difficult part of this proposal is enforcement. How do you know if a hunter is looking for sheep, bears, a place to land, or just sightseeing? Good question. The rule seems to be impossible to enforce. However, many people have really great cameras, and it's pretty easy to film a plane doing circles over a herd of sheep, or flying up and down valleys where the only animals are sheep... especially when said "hunter" is packing a sheep license in his pocket. I think it would be pretty hard to defend yourself in court with good video footage. Tail number size must be increased to allow for better identification. The current minimum size is impossible to read at long distances.

Proposal 207, solidifies a "standard" that has been set by the BGCSB and B&C. I thank you for passing this regulation and hope that you can find a way to enforce it effectively.

as flying to spot moose. While I understand that it would be nearly impossible to enforce or prove that the hunter was scouting for sheep, instead of looking for another animal, or a place to land. The places I've seen planes flying is sheep country, and there is no place to land.

Ivan Clark



From: [jared.carter](#)
To: [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Sheep hunting regulations comments.
Date: Friday, April 24, 2015 12:06:18 AM

I support the aircraft spotting ban 100%. I am born and raised Alaskan and I drew a good sheep tag last year. I had between 3-5 planes flying overhead every day and most were spotting for sheep. I think the pressure put on the sheep is one of the causes of their decline. I personally think aircraft should be banned outright and horse or atv entry into game units required. I also think non-resident big game tags should be limited to 10% of tags in any area and if there is only one tag it is required to be issued to a resident.

I think the board of fish and game would be wise to start considering residents and not the apha before enough of us get sick of the BS and sue to make the board follow the state constitution concerning natural resources.



Submitted By
Jay Sjogren
Submitted On
5/5/2015 10:25:07 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game,

As an avid sheep hunter, having harvested four Dall Sheep in the Brooks Range, I would like to say that I am 100% AGAINST the use of airplanes to be used in spotting/looking for sheep during sheep season.

I have had a Super Cub "buzz" sheep in my area, as well as myself, while walking along looking for a sheep to harvest. I am certain that a plane has intentionally ran sheep out of our vicinity on more than one occassion while hunting them in the Brooks Range. It was disappointing to experience that.

I realize that it is difficult to enforce, but it should keep the honest people honest.

Thank you for allowing me to be heard.

Sincerely,

Jay Sjogren

Submitted By
Joe Klutsch
Submitted On
5/18/2015 4:06:05 PM
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Fair Chase Hunters

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Chairman Spraker and members of the Board of Game,

I am writing you to comment on the reconsideration of Proposal 207, which you adopted at your last meeting. As you may recall, I commented in support of Proposal 207 (please refer to your file copy of that comment). I outlined the following in that letter (refer to your copy):

1. Hunters in the field have been increasingly confronted with aircraft relentlessly being used to spot sheep both prior to and during season.
2. Individuals who use aircraft in this manner have a disproportionate advantage in harvesting sheep, especially fully mature age class sheep. This has resulted in ongoing conflicts in the field between both resident and non-resident hunters.
3. Using aircraft in this manner violates the ethical standards of true fair chase hunting. It also encroaches on the ability of hunters to pursue game in a fair chase manner.
4. This method and means of hunting jeopardizes the quality of experience which should be unique to wilderness sheep hunting. It also is jeopardizing the allocation of opportunity among all sheep hunters.

Contrary to the assertions by those who oppose these regulations, the regulation will be enforceable. I am confident that compliance can be achieved. There is also no doubt in my mind that general public acceptance of this regulation both by hunters and non-hunters is widespread. Nearly all the people I am aware of who have stated they fear being unjustly sited for use of aircraft to spot sheep are in fact people who use aircraft to spot sheep.

I urge you to hold your ground and let Alaska set the standard for quality of experience and for future generations of younger hunters whose opportunity to experience sheep hunting will be greatly diminished if these practices are not curtailed.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Joe Klutsch

Master Guide 91

Submitted By
Joey Klutsch
Submitted On
5/19/2015 12:53:00 PM
Affiliation
ethical fair chase hunters everywhere

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Board members,

My name is Joey Klutsch. I am a Registered Guide and lifelong subsistence user. I hold a USFWS Special Use Permit in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, where I guide for Dall Sheep. I am writing on my own behalf to encourage you to fully support Proposal 207. Below are points outlining why Proposal 207 is essential to the future of sheep hunting in Alaska.

-Using an aircraft in this manner is unethical and violates fair chase principals. Alaska should set the standard for fair chase hunting in North America.

- People who hunt fair chase cannot compete with those who individually target rams from the air and then use the aircraft to position themselves as close as possible. This creates conflicts in the field and gives Alaska a bad reputation as a place to hunt. No one, whether resident or guided no-resident, wants or deserves to see airplanes circling mountains looking for sheep while they are trying to hunt (or partake in other outdoor activities) in what should be a true wilderness setting.

-The use of aircraft to find and target sheep puts added stress on sheep populations and will eventually lead to reduced allocation for both resident and non-resident hunters. There are only so many mature sheep to harvest and in some locations nearly 100% of the legal sheep are being taken. Eliminating the use of aircraft for spotting and targeting sheep will help alleviate this issue.

I have heard many people, both resident hunters and guides alike, claim that Proposal 207 is "unenforceable" and therefore should not be passed. This claim is groundless. When confronted with a regulation, nearly everyone will abide by the law simply because it is law and most people have ethics. Those few people who choose to break the law will eventually be weeded out by enforcement. We can use the elimination of same day airborne hunting as an example of this. It is also noteworthy that many of the people opposed to Proposal 207 are in fact people who use aircraft to spot sheep.

I would like to thank you for your consideration in this matter and again urge you to stand by Proposal 207, for the future of hunting in Alaska.

Joey Klutsch

Registered Guide 1277

From: [John Abrams](#)
To: [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: 207
Date: Saturday, May 16, 2015 8:02:43 AM

AK BOG Members:

I am appalled at what BOG did recently when they passed 207. I actually am in favor of the concept, but certainly not the proposal which resulted. There has already been a law making it illegal to buzz animals, or hunt until the day after flying. Regardless, this bill would do nothing to increase sheep populations. Realize that although I have been hunting, I have not taken a sheep in a number of years; there are several reasons for this; I have let my son shoot, have tried to let my daughter get a shot, have experienced some unfavorable weather and have occasionally tried (unsuccessfully) with my bow.

Consider the language of the bill: aircraft may only be used to place hunters and camps, maintain existing camps... This wording obviously gives more freedom to guides and less to resident pilots. Consider my situation: I often may fly out to do some scouting in late June or July, both to locate sheep and possible landing spots. I never fly close to sheep in early spring, as they are in rough shape from winter, and need time to recover. I don't repeatedly fly near sheep, but merely get close enough to determine whether some rams are present; they don't normally run at all when I fly past. I then would fly out to hunt a day or two before I plan to hunt. At that time I don't fly near sheep, as I don't want to spook any; I may find somebody camped at the spot which I was considering; the wind might be wrong for landing there; that area might be 'socked in'. Each of the above reasons would cause me to fly to an alternate area. If I attempt that, according to 207, it might be interpreted that I was spotting sheep, whereas all I was doing was heading for my 2nd choice to hunt. Furthermore, since I normally bring all of my gear with me, am I placing a hunter (me and a partner) and a camp, or would I be considered to be scouting since I flew to my spot with nothing there until I arrived? My normal hunting pattern is to land, and if early enough in the day, load up my tent, and gear and start hiking (otherwise I would begin climbing the next AM), never returning to my plane until I am done hunting.

For many years, sheep hunting regulations have favored guides (alias non-residents) over residents; now BOG has just shifted it even further toward non-residents. The only answer is that money talks! An airplane in the hands of most residents isn't a guarantee to be successful at hunting sheep. Some guides, on the other hand, use very lightly loaded aircraft to position hunters close to sheep; they are able to do this, since their gas supply is near at hand in base camp, allowing them to fly with very little gas. A resident usually has to have enough gas in the tanks to fly back home. A resident has to land where he can tie his plane up in a safe spot, where it will be protected from wind and flooding. In general the guide lands, and then flies the plane back to his main camp. On top of that, some guides use horses



or 4-wheelers to get their clients close to sheep. Generally residents are able to do a bit of flying during the summer to locate their desired hunting spot and check out a place to land when they are not carrying all of their hunting gear. Most of them fly out to their hunting spot, tie up the plane, and start hiking, returning to their plane only upon the completion of the hunt. Guides have more of a tendency to fly each day, either when dropping off other hunters, checking on them, bringing in supplies to base camp, or even to a spike camp. Many guides have their clients flown to base camp commercially, which often means that the larger planes can get past weather which stops residents in smaller planes. Frequently the weather might be better in the hunting area than in route, so this again favors non-residents. Residents may only find a few good 'windows' in which to fly out to their hunting location; any further restrictions on how soon they are eligible to hunt will again decrease their opportunities.

Non-resident sheep hunters have a MUCH higher success rate than residents, because of all the advantages which the guides possess. When one considers the amount of money they receive for a sheep hunt, it is easy to understand why they would spend much more time locating sheep in advance than the normal resident. Some of the guides and many of the assistant guides, packers, etc. are not even residents of the state. Consider that, some of them couldn't hunt legally, but they can guide non-residents.... A good many residents may fly out on a Friday and hunt through the week end with perhaps an extra day or two at the end. If the weather is not good on Friday it may delay, or even stop, their hunt. This practice would be even more common when taking youth hunting. One tries to cause them to miss the least school possible. Fortunately the longer delay before hunting didn't yet pass to aggravate this situation.

If the real objective is to reduce sheep harvest, and therefore increase sheep numbers, non-resident hunters need to be reduced, period.

A further note is that aircraft in the hands of residents were grandfathered in even before statehood. They are not nearly as efficient at hunting most big game as some other transportation means; for instance check out the success rate on moose when a 4-wheeler is used, as compared to other vehicles. The 4-wheeler is misused far more than an airplane, in many cases, and is a relative newcomer in the world of hunting. I understand that BOG backed down when trying to do some regulating of them in part of unit 14 because so many showed up to protest....

In short, I urge you to repeal 207.

Thank you,

John Abrams
696-2784

Submitted By
JR Gates
Submitted On
5/15/2015 12:55:13 PM
Affiliation

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1: Airplane hunters, as a whole, ARE ethical, fair chase, and moral participants in the sheep harvest: *Alaskan residents NEVER gave the BoG a mandate to cherry-pick "ethical" behaviors according to their personal preferences. *Anecdotal accounts of poor behavior by individual pilots DOES NOT define an entire swath of Alaskan hunters as 'unethical' *Boone and Crockett DOES NOT disqualify rams taken with lawful use of aircraft *IF there truly was an ethical argument against using aircraft to hunt, then ALL species should be regulated the same way, with the same reg., for the entire calendar year. Calling aircraft scouting "unethical" for only part of the year, or for only certain species is illogical. Meanwhile, the Commercial Services Board has expanded professional guide's ability to use aircraft to spot and harvest bears using aircraft. IT CAN'T BE BOTH ETHICAL and UNETHICAL to hunt with aircraft... 2. Using aircraft IS fair to non-aircraft hunters. *Pilots use their aircraft to create SEPARATION, not concentration. All Alaskan hunters benefit from the ability of pilot-hunters to expand the hunt range and reduce congestion around the larger access points. *IF "fairness of access" is to be the standard going forward, then all motorized access should be address in the same regulation. *Unit 23 has shown there can be harmony between the different access users when the focus is on education, not criminalization. Aircraft moose hunters in 23 are required to complete an online training module highlighting etiquette and safety when operating around boat-based hunters and camps. 3. The crowding forced by Prop 207 is CONTRARY to the primary objection of sheep hunters, as documented in the much-quoted Brinkmann sheep hunter survey. *first-week crowding will be made worse by forcing aircraft hunters to fly in the days leading up to August 10th. *late-season crowding will be made worse by pilot hunters being forced to land on existing, established camps and strips to avoid possible "scouting" violations. Sheep spotting will now be forced by regulation into "tent" spotting. *friends of pilots, who rely on the inexpensive access of a buddy-pilot, will be forced into more concentrated areas and expenses as resident pilots become less willing to risk violation by flying them out and they are forced to shell out for an air taxi, find new places to hunt, or drop out of the hunt entirely. 4. Prop 207 risks pilot/passenger safety for zero gain. *there is no documented correlation that 207 will increase opportunity or decrease congestion, but it will absolutely force pilot hunters into the same airspace on the same few days leading up to August 10th. It will also factor into a pilot's decision making when they are circling to inspect possible landing sites. *the BoG did not request input from FAA, NTSB, State Dept. Of Transportation, or any NGO to assess safety implications of this sweeping regulation

Submitted By
Kevin Asher
Submitted On
5/14/2015 9:56:08 AM
Affiliation
self

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I think everyone agrees that something substantive needs to be done with sheep management in our state or we will be looking at a less than stellar future for sheep hunters. The solution should be a well-thought, well-discussed, solution based approach. This (according to board members) was a last minute idea that nobody thought would come to a vote. The board owes the citizens of the state much greater forethought and research and planning. "People called me at home" is NOT.

Second: The "unfair advantage" argument is just lunacy. A guy that shoots 700 yds is an unfair advantage to me. A guy that can afford to spend all summer scouting is unfair advantage to me. The "unfair advantage" argument has no end and in my opinion has no place in a game management discussion. Its quite literally - childish. Playground talk.

I would like to see a regulation that will actually help sheep populations increase/stabalize even if it takes from my personal hunting opportunities. (draw or 1 every 4) It should be research based, solution oriented, and PR be damned. Its hard for me to stomach that we are targeting residents (as 207 is) before restricting non-resident take - as many of us believe is mandated by state constitution. I have ties to guiding and many friends and myself personally- however, it seems pretty clear that residents do have priority NO MATTER HOW THEY ACCESS THE FIELD.

Lastly: the wording of the passed portions of prop 207 is so broad and vague that it has the ability (and will) to negatively affect air commerce in the state. I know there have been many of us who have testified to this. Federal case law and congressional actions starting in 1939 have been consistent with the fact that states may make no law infringing on air commerce. This law will only be challenged in court and struck/partially struck eventually. Should the board choose to stick to the failed policy and thought behind 207, the board needs to be professional enough to re-write the law to be specific to the problem they are trying to address. Re-writing it to exclude FAA licensed air taxis or scenic flights or best yet: everyone else that does not care about shooting a sheep the next morning. Moreover and easiest- I request the board to adopt Option 2 (or even option 3) instead of option 1 and then at least these problems are nearly gone and Troopers have a measurable law to enforce. (Tho I'll re-iterate- I'd much rather recommend the board drops the idea completely and focuses on substantive results-oriented regulations)

Submitted By
Kyle Jones
Submitted On
4/27/2015 5:38:05 PM
Affiliation
Alaskan

Proposal 207, according to Chairman Ted Spraker, is intended to address complaints about competition and reduce hunting pressure enough to avoid putting a permit system system in place. In reality, Proposal 207 will do neither of these things and I support rescinding this action. This law will not address the perceived overcrowding because there is not a widespread issue with aircraft buzzing sheep hunters during open season. This law will not reduce hunting pressure, because this will not keep hunters out of the field. I concede that even more restrictive laws that would outright ban the use of aircraft for sheep hunting would do both of these things, but only in the remote areas that are only accessible by aircraft. Overcrowding would skyrocket as these hunters move into areas that are accessible by ground.

I hold strongly the principals of ethical hunting and fair chase, and wholly agree with same-day airborne hunting restrictions. I use my aircraft to create separation from other hunters. One of the greatest things about Alaska is my ability to study a map and set out in search of my own space, unburdened by the state or anyone else telling me where I should go. I can build my own understanding of how to safely and ethically harvest in that area. This regulation will completely forbid the harvest of any animal observed from the air for the entire season, regardless of how ethically it is pursued.

Under this law, I am exposed to frivolous accusations from anyone on the ground for doing what has been a fundamental freedom of Alaskan pilots: exploring. Or, perhaps worse, I am unfortunate enough to accidentally see a ram from the air and am now required to start the process over again, pushing on in search of a new area to hunt because by this regulation that animal is disqualified for the year.

The enforceability of this regulation is highly suspect in my mind, but in this realm of law the Troopers or federal enforcement can cite me, and, if they feel justified as part of further investigation, seize my aircraft as "evidence". It would then be my responsibility to prove a negative... more than one aircraft has been surrendered in settlement by pilots who cannot afford to lawyer up and go the distance in our justice system.

This regulation is a slippery slope, and has consequences that reach far beyond hunting into the restriction of activities within the national airspace. The regulation should be repealed, and put to bed as a knee jerk reaction that will accomplish nothing except provide a red herring for those seeking real solutions to the declining sheep population in the state.



Submitted By

Luke conner

Submitted On

5/18/2015 1:11:17 PM

Affiliation

I am a sheep hunter and NOT a pilot. REPEAL 207!

Submitted By
Matt Soloy
Submitted On
5/15/2015 4:15:22 PM
Affiliation

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~~Matt Soloy 232-9597 matt_soloy@hotmail.com

I am writing to support rescinding proposal 207.
Proposal 207 generates nothing but problems for Alaskan resident hunters. When this proposal was passed by the board I believe some major consequences were over looked.

- Congested air space just prior to season could cause mid-air collisions
- Higher volumes of air traffic before season causing undesirable hunting areas
- Will cause a sense of anxiety, panic, and urgency to hunters
- Completely unenforceable and a waste of time for state troopers to try and prove
- Will cause crowding for all hunters with all types of transportation
- Solves nothing for managing the state resource
- Unconstitutional

The board of game got this one wrong. This does nothing to solve anything with sheep management. If the public and the board feels the need to restrict hunters for the sake of saving the resource, then restrictions must be put on non-residents first. Guides on state lands are allowed to take as many hunters as they can and harvest as many animals as they want. These hunters will typically be non- selective. How can you allow letting sheep populations and quality to decline and allow having guides doing this? Allocating a certain amount of sheep tags to guides on state land would certainly drive the price for a hunt up, allowing the guide to still make a living. On top of all that a guide does not make his living solely on sheep hunters.

When I am scouting for sheep hunting, I am not just looking to see if there are sheep in the area, I am just as equally looking to see if there are people in the area. Would it be fair for me to have to try and defend myself from accusations of "scouting for sheep" just because I was flying to make sure I did not cause a conflict? If I see a camp or other planes I move on. Hunters that don't have planes most certainly can hire someone to scout around before or they most likely have a friend that would be willing to fly around. I chose flying as my mode of transportation in the field, and have a high degree of commitment to do so. Why is it fair to take that away from Alaskan hunters? Would it be fair to limit somebody based on their physical ability or there quality of gear or rifle?
Proposal 207 is unsafe, unfair, unenforceable, unpopular, and ineffective. Please get this right and rescind this proposal.



Submitted By
Mike Lee
Submitted On
5/18/2015 1:19:38 PM
Affiliation

In regards to lengthening the amount of time required for hunters to be on the ground and distance from hunting grounds. I don't agree with this and feel that it is another effort by anti hunters to make it harder to hunt and outfit for Dall sheep.



RAY ATKINS, MASTER GUIDE
ATKINS GUIDING AND FLYING SERVICE
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May 10, 2015

907-465-6094

Board of Game

Proposal 207 – Use of aircraft to locate dall sheep while hunting

A few guides have spent a lifetime and a large portion of their income on trying to produce consistent quality hunts for their clients on a sustained yield basis.

Fifty plus years of sheep hunting has shown me this cannot be maintained without the careful use of aircraft. Fair Chase can be Air Chase. Aircraft lend assistance to the hunt, otherwise hunters are on a very expensive hike with little chance of success.

Would appreciate it if you would read this at the Board meeting.

Sincerely submitted

Ray Atkins

Submitted By
Richard H. Bishop
Submitted On
5/19/2015 8:30:50 AM
Affiliation
self

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I oppose the content of Proposal 207 and recommend that the Game Board rescind its approval.

Although it appears the regulation may meet legal standards, my concern is that the prohibition on airborne spotting of sheep during sheep season seems virtually unenforceable, except for rare opportunistic circumstances. I think a regulation of this sort is an unreasonable demand on enforcement people, who, if it passed, would do their best to enforce it but would be frustrated and spend a lot of time fruitlessly trying. An ineffective regulation is also a disservice to the public who expect some results from a regulation. An ineffective regulation soon becomes a "laughing stock" that no one respects. Please ask the Division of Wildlife Enforcement for a critical analysis of the likely effectiveness of this regulation.

Regarding the suggested Dall sheep management group, I don't think it's good idea if it circumvents the Fish and Game Advisory Committee system. Advisory Committee input should be included and/or any recommendations from such a sheep management group should be required to have review by any and all Advisory Committees that wish to make comments and recommendations.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Richard H. Bishop



Submitted By
Robert Cassell
Submitted On
5/16/2015 5:23:33 PM
Affiliation

I adamantly oppose what the Game Board has done with the self generated proposal 207 and believe the public process has been subverted by the Game Boards action. Any restrictions to harvesting Dall's Sheep should be to limit non-resident harvest as codified in the Alaska Constitution mandating for management for the people of Alaska first. If the sheep hunting public wishes to have areas where no aircraft are used for hunting sheep, the public has the opportunity to request this thru the proposal process and the Game board can then consider it. I believe the Game Board has acted inappropriately by rejecting all sheep hunting proposals and acting on one generated by itself against the majority of public input, the Fairbanks, Anchorage and Mat-Su Advisory Committees.

Respectfully;

Robert Cassell



To the Alaska Board of Game.

Recently I was asked to write a short letter to you folks about my hunting experience with Midnight Sun Safaris, and Coke Wallace. The hunt took place last year in 2014 and was set up for the intent of harvesting a moose. With apprehension of hunting with a guide due to horror stories and first hand experience: I was put into contact with Coke by a mutual friend, Judd Cooney (a well-known outdoor writer and photographer as well as retired game and fish officer). Judd put his stamp on Coke and his operation so I decided to book with Midnight Sun Safaris. The next few paragraphs will describe a little about me and how the hunt and trip went.

My name is Robert Fuller (age 37) and to describe myself without sounding arrogant is simple. I work for a living. Money for me is hard earned. I started saving for a trip to Alaska six years prior to going. Every dime I had, mainly extra change (literally coins) from money spent buying food and such went into five gallon water jugs to be cashed in to take this trip. I have hunted and fished the mountains of Colorado as a means of getting through life, for my entire life. One of the things I have witnessed is that there are hunters and there are killers. I don't really believe in trophy hunting, but I do believe that when you travel somewhere to hunt and pay lots of money that is the whole intent. Even when small or large amounts of money are spent harvesting a trophy should be done by hunting them. Some in this area as well as yours have resorted to using all means necessary simply to kill nothing but trophies. People using airplanes and helicopters to kill not harvest their quarry is just wrong as well as lazy. Again as I said I work hard for my money, I except the fact that when I get a chance to go on a hunting trip such as this one that I may come home empty handed. If I want a guaranteed kill I would hunt high fence ranches in places like Texas: where helicopters are used to hunt hogs, which is very effective and in those cases of pest control. Flying into camps; another useful tactic to get to where you are going to find game.

When I was flown into camp I could see the purpose of air planes in your country. I figured at least a three day hike to the Wood River camp of Midnight Sun's. If done on horseback a day and a half. After getting into camp and getting settled and geared up I was told to stand down by one of the guides. It was then explained to me about the no hunting after flying rule. The guide told me I could go and look for moose from the nob camp was by, but to leave my rifle behind and only to take a camera. I asked about running into a grizzly or wolves shouldn't I have my rifle for protection he said "nope can't shoot any sort of animal after flying". So I decided to play cribbage with the cook instead. The next morning was a bit of a wet one and I thought to myself man I am glad I flew in yesterday in nice weather I would not want to fly in that. We saw a couple of moose that day but not a legal bull in the bunch. (Fast forward to the next day.) Nice day saw the same for moose and glassed a bunch of sheep, and started seeing and hearing planes fly. I asked the guide where they were headed kind of feeling out just how many camps where close to us. He said on up the river looking for sheep and moose. This kind of brought back some memories of home for me. Planes scouting for animals and flying in other hunters to other camps well the first nice day I could expect that I guess. The next day we went higher up on a mountain to see more country and hope to spot a legal moose to go after. About mid-morning the roar



of another plane; I decided to look at him through the binoculars and that's when I noticed, no tail numbers on the plane. A bit odd I thought and then it came to me, unless someone got a close up picture of your plane you could get away with a lot of stuff owning a plane. A moose came into view and all that was forgotten. After glassing that bull and seeing he was not legal the guide and I started talking about the air traffic. You could tell he knew I was a little concerned about all the traffic but he said that's just the way it happened around there. Pretty soon another plane started up the canyon out in front of us except when he got passed us he turned and came back. He almost was right in front of us and he turned again back to the same direction he was headed. Then once again he turned and started to descend making one more circle at lower elevation you could hear the plane's engine slow. One more circle and he landed on a gravel bar within a mile and a half of us. I looked at my guide and he started saying a few words of frustration, (not going to repeat them). He said they must of saw something worth going after when I asked what they might be doing. What a bummer and what a bunch of cheaters. I never heard a gunshot but at that distance t would have been hard to. They stayed on that gravel bar for most of the day and then when they took off they headed back the direction in which they had come from. We finished that day and never saw another animal, could have been that they just where not moving or they could have disrupted by the plane. The next day we went up into the same area and I kept an eye on that area they had been in wondering if the plane had just dropped in some hunters, but that evening one of the other guides and a hunter came back to camp. They had been up above where that plane had landed and said that there was no camp or people there when they came by. They had seen the same thing we did though when the plane came through, circling then landing. The next few days where nice and we saw a bunch more planes flying up and down the same path I became discouraged and decided to talk to Coke about it when I saw him next. I did not have to the guides had already been in contact with him on this matter and I was shortly flown to a different camp (the Moody) along with my guide to see if we could find a moose. I lost another a day of hunting because of the no hunting when flying rule so when I got to new camp that day I played more cribbage. Coke and I talked about what had happened and he apologized about all the planes and explained that he would make it right and if we did not find a moose there he would have me back at his expense next year. He felt that all the air activity had hindered my chances at his best moose camp. I did not harvest a moose so I will be headed back this fall to try again.

Personally I feel Coke is going beyond what he has to do to make it right. Had one of his crew or he himself been at fault for the failure of a successful hunt I would say he should have me back at his expense. I expect his reputation and the pride in which he operates his outfit is to blame for the courtesy of having me back. He as well as his crew work hard for the money they earn and the reputation of being excellent in the craft they choose to do so.

Sincerely

Robert Fuller

Board of Game

April 29, 2015

Rescind Proposal 207

Dear Board Members:

My name is Roger Morris. I have hunted sheep for 44 of my 49 years in Alaska. I harvested my first full curl ram on September 6, 1966. I have taken 9 rams including 2 with a bow and was in on the harvest of 31 rams with friends before I started guiding. During my years as a guide I personally guided another 34 clients to rams. So I consider myself knowledgeable about sheep hunting. I am a retired Master Guide and have not owned an airplane for the last nine years. So at this time the use of an airplane for sheep hunting is not important.

Your restrictions on the use of an airplane during sheep season (Proposal 207) will have **no benefit** to the sheep population and **will not restrict** the take of legal rams. It would be impossible to enforce and could affect sheep hunters landing on marginal airstrips. I am sure this proposal was supported by residents who think the airplane gives that sheep hunter an advantage. The only advantage it gives them is it saves a lot of walking. Good guides use airplanes as a tool to survey their area so they can maintain a healthy sheep population by taking the most mature rams.

Over my years of sheep hunting I have watched the sheep population decline in most areas of the State. However, hunting sheep has not been the main factor in this decrease. I will use my guide area as an example. My first guide season was August 1984. We had approximately 30 rams over ½ curl and approximately 300 ewes & lambs. Twenty one years later we had 20 rams over ½ curl and only about 30 ewes & lambs. We harvested an average of 5 rams over the 21 years or 108 sheep. So the problem wasn't hunting. The main causes of low sheep populations are predation, possible disease and/or food sources.

Some things we can do to stop the decline:

1. Increase hunting and trapping of predators (wolf, coyote & wolverine).
2. **Change bag limit to one sheep every 5 years. That should take kill down 10-15%.**
3. **In permit areas only allow successful applicants one permit every 5 years.**
4. Last and only if needed after aerial surveys where populations are down change area to permit areas.

I know we have a problem and I think my first three suggestions will help and especially number 2 & 3.

Sincerely,

Roger Morris
Sheep hunter & retired Master Guide



Submitted By
Ron Bailey
Submitted On
5/16/2015 5:37:04 PM
Affiliation
??

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I am writing to ask that the Board "Repeal Prop 207".....this proposition makes no logical sense, from lack of consistency to the "assumption" that all pilots are cheaters or conduct illegal acts....also, we learn to fly and spend a lot of money in our Alaska economy, to get separation from each other and from competition, and the idea of forcing all pilots to fly in the same time frame is illogical and flat crazy.....who came up with this proposal?? I would suggest that the final goal is to shut down private pilots in Alaska.....Vote no on Prop 207.....thx, Ron Bailey

Submitted By
Ryan D
Submitted On
4/29/2015 7:11:30 PM
Affiliation

ADFG,

My concern is what is best for the sheep population. I'm not convinced the no sheep spotting proposal has anything to do with conservation and has more to do with individual self-interest. Obviously this effects the guide community and I've heard arguments from their side arguing that the guides are providing ADFG with information on sheep locations, populations, etc. While they may provide some information I haven't seen any evidence that the information provided gives any substantial information that assists biologists in managing the populations. On the other hand I fear this proposal has come about in order to make sheep hunting "easier" for some squeaky wheels who believe those in planes are abusing their advantage or they have had bad experiences with a few individuals.

I can make a slight argument for the conservation efforts of sheep from both perspectives, neither of which I think has any lasting impacting on the management of dall sheep in Alaska. The guides/airplane owners can spot the large mature sheep and ensure they are harvesting the older animals which is healthy to sustain the overall numbers. From the other perspective I can see how the harvest numbers may decline if rams cannot easily be spotted by air then stalked.

As always the truth lies somewhere between this issue and trumped up charges will be made by either side to support their argument.

Whatever decision comes of this proposal will have little impact on the sheep in my opinion. I just hope the evidence is out there to support an informed decision either way. Hopefully whatever decision is made is based upon science and what will maintain a healthy sheep population for generations to come, not who argues the loudest.

-Ryan

From: [scott](#)
To: [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Sheep Hunting / Prop 207
Date: Thursday, May 14, 2015 4:46:20 PM

BOG,

I am apposed to your prop # 207 and Idea of the sheep meeting group, you where appointed by the Governor / Advised and Consented by the AK Lawmakers. It is your responsibility to adopt or create new hunting rule's / Regulations. (and to my understanding, not to write / create Alaska Law's) That is the job of our Legislators.

I have read and reviewed as much as I can to understand what has transpired, I have determined that you have went against to will of the Alaskan People. Not only in the Public Testimony, But in your duties as well.

Ill start with the Public Testimony, it was overwhelming in favor of you NOT doing this. But you voted to do for it any ways.

Was the Alaska Constitution Violated with you actions? I would say yes, Alaskans are to have free and full access to the "Naturel Resources". Is this being done? Why would you NOT stop the out of State Hunter's first? on top of that, it looks or seems like you have the Big Dollar interest ahead the Alaskan's. Why not us a lottery? close it down if it's that bad. There are Many more.....I don't have time to list them all that concern me.

Your duties or there lack of, Is it not your duties to understand the Alaskan Constitution and our Right's, Manage the Fish and Wild Like with respects "reasonable" rule's. It is clear to me that your NOT managing, creating, implicating the Hunting and fishing rule's / Regulation's. Your sampling managing US! Disregarding our right's, as Alaskan's.

Where were you when Then Governor Tony Knowles failed to engage in making us responsible to mange the hunting and fishing regulations? he failed to act! thus letting the Fed's Take over from lack of Engagement. Your Board is Independent from the Governors Office. You could then (but failed to do so) and still could NOW write / adopt Regulations taking this back over. I say why NOT. EXAMPLE: Federal Law's state the Pot is Illegal, yet we as a State disregard Federal law. There is a Federal law called "Defense of Marriage Act", we as a state supported that with a vote, yet a few Alaskan Judge's over turned that. "SO" I say what why would we care what the Fed's do or say. The way they treat us now would be a perfect time to send them a message.

I have contacted my Elected Official from Big Lake, Mark Newman, and have contacted the office of the LT. Governor's Office requesting a recall petition, if you continue to disregard the will of the Alaskan People under the Alaska State's Constitution. I will File the recall.

Feel free to call me any time.

Wm. Scott Barry 907 727-7158



Submitted By

Scott Peterson

Submitted On

4/28/2015 7:56:26 PM

Affiliation

I wish to voice my support of Proposal 207. It is not quite as restrictive as hoped but is certainly a step in the right direction. Please help Alaskan Dall sheep by making Proposal 207 law.

Submitted By
Shawn Chura
Submitted On
5/4/2015 12:37:07 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-750-1038
Email
shawnychura@gmail.com

Address
4133 Polar Fox Loop
North Pole, Alaska 99705

Sir or Ma'am,

It is my feelings and belief that use of aircraft for the purpose of spotting legal sheep is inconsistent with fair chase hunting. I acknowledge that hunting dall sheep is one of North America's most challenging hunts, but I don't feel the high degree of effort required to be successful negates the need to have the necessary skills essential for locating and stalking sheep. Many hunters spend countless hours studying and planning for a difficult hunt and are rewarded for their efforts with success, but many more apply the same degree of preparation without being rewarded due to the difficulty of hunting dall sheep. Most of these hunters regardless of success attempt the challenge because of the challenge which it is, and because the experience is unmatched. I feel the use of aircraft in locating sheeps takes away from that experience, making sheep hunting no harder than trying to locate a fish in a barrel. Locating legal sheep using aircraft is akin to a slap in the face for us who put in the extreme efforts, please do not take away from the experience that those of us get from putting in the time and effort which we do.

Shawn Chura

Submitted By
Shiloh Seymour
Submitted On
5/18/2015 4:56:33 AM
Affiliation

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homer, Alaska 99603

I have lived in Alaska for 32 years airplanes are absolutely the best way to access sheep. I feel that this ruling is an attack on guides and transporters that give us the opportunity to get into the field to access sheep that we would otherwise not have access to. I don't know about you but I don't want to just get dropped off in the middle of nowhere I want to get dropped off where I have a reasonable chance of killing sheep in order to do that my pilot needs to know where they are That means he has to legally be able to spot sheep. The other thing that I am deeply bothered by this ruling will change the history and the tradition of how the super cub has been used in Alaska it is inherently an Alaskan tradition that should not change.

Ph (907) 322-7004

spikecy@gmail.com

May 6, 2015

Proposal 207.

Dear Kristy Tibbles, Bob Mumford, Pete Probasco, David Brown, Teresa Albaugh, Stosh Hoffman, Nathan Turner and Ted Spraker:

Please rescind your action on 207. Here are just a few of the reasons from a dedicated sheep hunter (taken 30 not one B&C), pilot (5,000 hours in sheep country) and trained mammalogist (masters level). Live 38 years on major airport that is used to access sheep hunting TMA included.

1. 207 is unenforceable and current provisions that disallow harassment and same day airborne are *more effective and are not enforced now*.
2. This does not stop those who have resources to fly and locate the biggest rams or any legal animal during the balance of the year. (The wealthy and the dedicated and the agencies.)
3. The most egregious and most common of the violators of my hunts have been federal and state aircraft and or contractors of federal and state agencies including park service and military. 207 will make it even worse. (Detailed explanations below.)
4. Sheep numbers are down, this action will do nothing to help increase numbers, which is critical.
5. We have too many hunters and too few sheep. This will not correct this critical situation.
6. Water and land vehicles have outpaced aircraft improvement in technical wilderness capacity and are steadily accessing areas formerly accessible only by air. There are now wheeled vehicle trails, air/jet/boats, and hovercraft traveling directly to or closer to many of my personally developed landing spots and cause me more interaction than even the never ending roar and harassment of government aircraft personnel and contractors. This does nothing to stop the six wheelers and jet boats from parking on many places I used to land to hunt amid the sheep or still had to hike 10 miles. 207 does not address this in any way, they can drive or boat all the way to a legal animal and only get off the motor to shoot.
7. Aircraft allow us to experience the very best in wilderness type hunting with the least invasive effect on our wilderness and backcountry values. 207 will not help, it will hurt or cause more expense.
8. Anything that restricts or makes access to these quality hunts more expensive excludes people without resources and our youth. With sheep forget 207 and add a requirement that 40% of all drawing tags must be issued to hunters age 16 or younger.
9. There are many other big game seasons open during this same time in the areas open for sheep and aircraft are used for these hunts as well. Air traffic services rural areas and it is the most active time for other air-supported activities before freeze up. How do you know which plane is flying for what reason.



10. Most areas of good sheep habitat are most sensibly and efficiently accessed by aircraft, but other land and water machines are ever more efficient and If aircraft are restricted, then any mechanical contrivance for transport of hunters, gear and harvested game should also be similarly or more severely restricted. Aircraft can only land in a few places and ground rigs can now go many places into sheep habitat.

** The most egregious of the folks who locate target animals (large or small) from the air before, during and after seasons are 1. Government employees like me and many of us on the board! 2. Government flights and their contractors (G&F, NPS, BLM, COE, USAF, NWR, DNR, FS, NGS, DPS, EPA to name few and their contractors and large business flight (a longer list from Exxon to Pebble, AT&T) or other service contractors 3. Millionaires that hire the flight or other expertise any time of the year to find a trophy animal and track it until the hunter can arrive even months later, and 4. All of us who use the Internet and technology to send someone else to the great spot or specific animal.

Not only do we use our aircraft to locate specific animals or places to hunt and fish, but also we do it in helicopters and land and water vehicles most hunters cannot afford. Frequently we are contracted to conduct the surveys of the very game by both fixed wing aircraft and helicopters. We then go back to use our knowledge of the game and the terrain and equipment to build landing strips and ever better access. In instances one contractor uses the information to cause another hunter or guide to be arrested or harassed when the informant has a sideline business, friend or family member who will benefit by having the other convicted.

The information gained while doing our jobs is used personally to hunt ourselves, as a business in guiding or outfitting, or passed on to friends and family for their use in guiding and outfitting and profiting from their knowledge gained as an employee, biologist, law enforcement officer and etc. I have personally observed and participated in this activity for most of the years I was employed. By describing it --- I am not condemning it. We have great professionals in these fields that like to hunt and fish and they should be allowed to do so. There are frequent cases however where officers with authority have used that authority not just to hunt legally, but to discipline a hunter or guide that in turn enabled friends or relatives to benefit from their actions.

One of my favorite sheep hunting locations for 15 year was surveyed by an agency to do sheep surveys in the area but operated from a large city by a fixed wing and helicopter operator. I had to walk about 10 miles to get to these fairly nice sheep. This contractor came back with the helicopters, built cub strips and put out hunters that hunted the sheep that I had hunted for years. All of it legal, but this whole agrument is over the envy of one hunter being able to get to the sheep over another. One guide over another, one rule over another.

207 is not going to stop the worst of this or even the most of it because the knowledge is gained from legitimate activity and promulgated through unethical behaviors.

Then we have the wealthy hunters and others who are making a living helping other wealthy hunters. Many, including guides have been looking since June. Sheep can change ranges a little, but once you figure out the good sheep pastures by season, graveyards and safety terrain you do not have to fly during sheep season to find them you already know. And for the very wealthy they hire a good mountaineer(s) to live with a specific ram so the rich man or woman can come and be there with the ram on opening morning. The sheep is legally taken (many times by someone who bought the permit from the governor) but beyond the reach of most citizens. Spending a quarter to a half million dollars and more on such an event is more common that one might think.

207 is not going to stop the most egregious of those who screw up our hunts while we are on the ground hunting regardless of how we get there.

207 just hands more power and access to the very best of our resource to the rich and the privileged. Or, the aged instead of the youth.

Then there are the discourteous others who leave their home areas with their plane, a camper and a 500 gallon fuel wagon. Come to my home airport and other airports and fly for day after day till they locate animals (Sheep, Mooose, Caribou, Bear) and places to land. They fly in and look over all (to the point of harassment) when they can see that there are already sheep hunting camps and hunters in the area. This is very discourteous and any time I could see a hunter or a camp I pulled away. Know there are some that I did not see. My apologies. Wave a white garbage bag and I will leave. (most do not realize how hard it is to see a camo hunter from a plane.)

Would like to make it abundantly clear!

Need biologists and fish and game personnel who like to hunt and fish and photograph and be able to enjoy the same things that any citizen can enjoy. That includes the professionals that currently serve on this board. Mr. Spraker, have a good weekend hunting in a place that all of us can access for fish and game. I will happily join you.

Please rescind 207. Know it is not your current intent. It is another needless and unenforceable step. We can all envy however the other guy gets there. Next it will be moose, then caribou and then any air transport, then other motor vehicles and then only the young who can hike and rich can ever get to a sheep in the Wrangell's or the TMA.

Thanks for the right to comment.

Sincerely

Spike

Submitted By
Stephen K Springer Jr
Submitted On
5/6/2015 8:02:03 PM
Affiliation

Dear BOG,

These comments are for the Board scheduled meeting for May 28, 2015, which was not in the pull down menu.

Please do not rescind Board action on proposal 207 as amended, which concerns aircraft restrictions during sheep hunting seasons. I am a avid sheep hunter and find this practice distasteful. It is not fair chase and causes much conflict between hunters on foot and hunters with planes. Many guides use their planes to find that big ram for their client to make a fat tip as well. I have had planes ruin my stalk when they buzzed me stalking sheep. I've watched planes meticulously work in and out of every valley in the White mts looking for sheep. This is not hunting! Do not give into the aviation and guiding community.

Also, I like the idea of a sheep working group and be sure to include sheep hunters, not just BOG folks. I'd like to see ADF&G folks, sheep hunters, BOG, and reps from each Advisory Committee work on this issue. I personally feel the main issue is the simple fact that guides have almost all of the prime areas for sheep hunting locked up for NR hunters. Residents have to hunt marginal Ram habitat to avoid the guides. Some units/subunits just have too many guides, unit 20 for example. How can residents compete with all the guides when they have all the honey holes locked up for their profit? I'm not against the guiding industry, there are just too many of them. The state should go to a guide session, or limit the number of NR hunters by unit/subunit.

Thank you for considering my comments, I had very little time to prepare them.

Steve Springer



Submitted By

Adam St.Onge

Submitted On

5/21/2015 3:26:14 PM

Affiliation

Oppose 207 I am a pilot and sheep hunter

Submitted By
al
Submitted On
5/21/2015 11:51:14 AM
Affiliation
self

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ibalbarrette@yahoo.com
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20 May 2015
Al Barrette
380 Peger Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Mr. Chairman and members of the Board of Game.

I would once again ask that you vote to rescind 207.

Since aircraft are not easily identified as transporters, tourist, guide, private, wildlife conservation or law enforcement it is impossible for a hunter on the ground to know what intentions or why that aircraft is in the area. Thus a hunter can only assume something.

I have attended many classes, read lots of books and articles to make me a more successful hunter. The most common thing I have learned is "scouting" (locating), preseason, during and post season.

I have scouted areas for game or game sign during any of the three season of scouting, with the use of aircraft, ATV's, boats, sno-gos and PLC (personal leather carriers). Even web cams, such as the one up at Chandler maintenance camp Dalton Hwy.

I see no evidence though harvest reports submitted, that successful sheep hunters hunted less than 2 days that used an aircraft. (well under 1%). If there were a lot of sheep hunters using aircraft to locate sheep and land, wait till 3 AM the following day, then harvest a sheep. I would expect that data to be higher than less than 1%.

Even though some feel good about this regulation, I believe you will see little change in aircraft use during the sheep season. Especially after 1 September when most of the state is open for moose hunting. I can reflect on several times as I was flying to moose camps, I have located sheep. On 2 occasions we even took a closer look at the rams. Just to look, as moose camp was further than I was willing to pack a sheep out.

One more thing. I don't see in any data. Is how many times or how much law enforcement is flying in the problem areas? Such as BLM, Refuges and State. My experience is at least 2 out of 5 aircraft flying low enough for me to identify tail numbers, are some sort of law enforcement.

I would still recommend that you do not form a sheep working group.

If it is true, as I heard in previous board meeting. That there would be A/C involvement. I figure if only those A/C that have sheep in their region. There would be 40ish members add all the other interest groups and you're getting near 75 people on a working group. If not all the A/C's that have sheep in their region will be invited to a working group, who and what will be the standards for those invited and what A/C's do not get invited?

Let the public process that we have in place be our consistence standard. It works well. The Western Artic Caribou Working Group and the Unit 23 Working Group both had meetings recently this year. I saw

nothing that benefitted The Board of Game form these very costly meetings. Many of these members that are on the WACWG, Unit 23 WG, and locale A/C's are the same individuals.

Have a great day and safe productive summer

Al Barrette

Submitted By
Wayne E Kubat
Submitted On
5/20/2015 12:50:51 PM
Affiliation
Alaska Professional Hunters Association

May 20th, 2015

Dear Alaska Board of Game Members,

Please find the following Alaska Professional Hunters Association (APHA) comment's regarding the public Board of Game teleconference scheduled for May 28th, 2015.

Issue #1: *Action to rescind proposal 207 as amended, related to aircraft restrictions during sheep hunting seasons*

The APHA **supports** rescinding Proposal 207. We feel this proposal is excessively broad and puts suspicion on any one flying a plane in the mountains during sheep season, which could subsequently lead to hunters having to regularly defend their use of airplanes. AWT stated on the record at the Region 2 BOG meeting that it would be hard to enforce because it only applies to sheep. It could also cause safety concerns if a pilot refrains from doing multiple passes and go a rounds on marginal strips because he's afraid of being sited for spotting. Also, we heard from the sheep survey and ADF&G that most sheep hunting effort occurs during the first 10 days. We feel this proposal will only make that worse, as more hunters will opt to hunt early to avoid the risk of getting sited. Some current draw areas have multiple and/or late start dates, and the current proposal restricts aircraft use for several days in advance on some of these hunts. Additionally, this is an extremely divisive issue that does nothing to put more sheep on the mountain and stands to unravel any effort to come up with meaningful regulations and better management strategies.

Issue #2: *Request for establishing a sheep working group*

The APHA is in **strong support** of a "sheep working group." We have submitted numerous comments in written and verbal testimony to this effect. We also recently signed on, with many other outdoor groups, to a letter written by the Legislative Outdoor Heritage Caucus Advisory Committee (LOHC-AC) expressing our collective support of the project. Please refer to our prior comments and the above-mentioned letter for details. The APHA supports using Proposal 208 as the eventual "vehicle" for any finding or proposals that come out of this process. The APHA urges the Board to move forward with this process as soon as possible.



From: [Atlin Daugherty](#)
To: [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Dall sheep proposals
Date: Thursday, May 21, 2015 4:47:28 PM

I would like to see the BOG hold it ground and go through with their decision. Take air planes out of the hunt, it will make it a better experience for all. The sheep will benefit as well which is the most important part of this whole issue.

Thanks Atlin Daugherty



Submitted By
Dan Montgomery
Submitted On
5/21/2015 4:55:54 PM
Affiliation
Mat Valley A/C- Vice chair game

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on these sheep issues.

I strongly recommend that the board rescind proposal 207. This proposal is far too broad and in my opinion is totally unnecessary. It unfairly targets hunters that use aircraft for access during sheep season. This is the vast majority of sheep hunters that hunt outside the controlled use areas that restrict aircraft use. These controlled use areas were created so people that hunt in them would not have to compete with aircraft users. The four I can think of are Chugach state park, Tonsina walk in area, the first hunt in the Delta draw area and the Clearwater creek controlled use area. Two of these are draw areas and two are open to anyone and are walk in only. I have hunted or guided for sheep every year in Alaska since 1983 and have been in the field on over 60 harvests and have never had a aircraft disrupt a sheep hunt in all those years. I think this preconceived problem is way overblown.

It has been stated that it is not fairchase to spot something from the air and hunt it the next day and that the Boone and Crocket would not accept these animals into their awards programs. This was an incorrect statement. The B&C policy is to accept animals that were taken legally under Alaska's same day airborne rule but they will not accept anything that was harvested using a aircraft drone. Mr. Keith Balfour from B&C was mistaken when he submitted public comment #151 at the Region 2 meeting that stated they didn't support scouting from aircraft. Mr. Tony Caligiuri who is on the board of directors for B&C and is Deputy chairman of their Big Game Records Outreach committee corrected this mistake by submitting public comment #129 for your April 24th meeting. The bottom line is B&C who I believe practically invented "fairchase" considers an animal taken ever after being spotted from the air "fairchase" as long as you followed the law.

207 will only cause more crowding and problems and it won't solve any of the big issues like overcrowding and our declining sheep population. There would be a lot less aircraft flying around looking for legal sheep if there were a large number of legal sheep to hunt in the first place. Please listen to the vast majority of the public and rescind 207. In the short 24 hour window we had to comment for the April 24th meeting by my count it was at least 118 for rescinding and only 7 for retaining it. You voted 6 to 1 to reconsider 207 and I ask you to vote the same on the 28th to rescind. If the board has some different language it likes better you should submit a proposal with that language for consideration at the March statewide meeting in 2016.

I strongly support the a sheep working group to address the very real concerns with our sheep populations. This is the best way for every one to voice their concerns and find some lasting answers. Thank you.

Dan Montgomery

I

Submitted By
Daniel Lilja
Submitted On
5/16/2015 6:48:44 AM
Affiliation

Phone
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Address
P.O. Box 372
81 Lower Lynch Creek Road
Plains, Montana 59859

16MAY15

Dear Board of Game members,

As a past and hopefully future non-resident Dall sheep hunter in Alaska I am opposed to Proposal 207 for the following reasons:

- **Proposal 207 doesn't address the declining sheep population**

If there is a declining sheep population, proposal 207 will have no to minimal impact on the sheep population.

- **Makes the overcrowding problem worse**

Most sheep hunters who own, or get flown in with an airplane, will want to fly prior to opening day to avoid "spotting sheep". This will significantly make the hunting pressure worse the first week of the season, which is already when the perceived problem exists.

- **Safety**

As a result of the proposal, pilots will be doing most of their flying August 7th, 8th, and 9th. The chance of midair collisions increase. Also, for fear of getting falsely accused of "spotting sheep", a pilot's judgment is affected when circling possible landing strips to check on the conditions.

- **Restricts Access**

Hunting in Alaska is all about access and the majority of sheep hunters use airplanes to access the hunting areas.

- **Duplication of laws**

There are already laws in place that prevent harassment of hunters and also laws that prevent harassment of game.

- **Attacks a Single User Group**

This proposal unfairly attacks a single user group, airplane owners and others who use airplanes.

- **Unsupported by Advisory Committees**

Proposal 207 was voted against by the Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Mat-Su Advisory Committees, which represent approximately 75% of the population

- **Unsupported by many organizations**

The following organizations have made it public they are against 207: SCI, Alaska Airmen, Alaska Backcountry, Alaska Air Carriers, Alaska Professional Hunters Association, Experimental Aircraft Association, Alaska Outdoor Council, and others.

- **Abuse of power by the Board of Game**

Despite not acting on hundreds of sheep proposals from the public over the last several years, the board of game under the leadership of chairman Ted Spraker, developed their own proposal over the objections of Alaska State Troopers, local Advisory Committees, and a vast majority of overwhelming public testimony.

- **Unenforceable**

The Alaska State Troopers has submitted testimony that prop 207, as passed, will be very difficult to enforce.

- **False testimony**



Ted Spraker stated the Boone and Crockett organization, which coined the term "fair chase", would disqualify sheep killed after they were spotted from an airplane from entering into their records. This is untrue.

Submitted By
DARRELL FARMEN
Submitted On
5/21/2015 8:45:43 AM
Affiliation
INDIVIDUAL

MAY 20, 2015

TED SPRAKER, CHAIRMAN, ALASKA BOARD OF GAME

GAME MEMBERS

IT HAS COME TO MY ATTENTION THAT PROPOSAL 207 AS ADOPTED MAY BE ALTERED TO ALLOW THE USE OF AIRCRAFT FOR SPOTTING DALL SHEEP BEFORE OR DURING A SHEEP HUNT. I WOULD RECOMMEND LEAVING THE REGULATION AS IS TO PREVENT THIS.

AS A LONG TIME GUIDE, NOW RETIRED, I AND MANY OTHER GUIDES USED AIRCRAFT FOR TRANSPORTATION FOR YEARS BUT NOT FOR THE HUNTING. OVER THE YEARS I HAVE BEEN THROUGH MANY FIGHTS ABOUT THE MISUSE OF AIRCRAFT AND POINT OUT HOW MANY YEARS WERE REQUIRED TO BAN LAND AND SHOOT (OR IN SOME CASES SHOOT AND LAND). THE BAN WAS IMPOSED AND HUNTERS IMAGE WENT UP.

MY SHEEP HUNTING DAYS ARE OVER BUT THEY WERE GREAT FAIR CHASE HUNTS AND I WANT OTHERS TO HAVE THE EXPERIENCE.

LETS KEEP FAIR CHASE AS OUR ULTIMATE GOAL IN THE HUNTING ARENA.

DARRELL FARMEN , REGISTERED GUIDE, RETIRED

Submitted By
Dennis Giese
Submitted On
5/20/2015 8:18:03 PM
Affiliation

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If sheep population or lack of sheep population is the main concern as I understand it, than limiting aircraft use is NOT an answer to the problem.

Alaska is a huge state and the use of aircraft for accessing our beautiful state is unlike anywhere else on the continent. If their use is abused we already have laws in place to handle that, both on a state (harassment of wildlife) and federal (500 feet above persons or property) level.

I can't help but feel this is an issue of guides versus residents. In the limited amount of hunting I have done in Alaska, on two occasions I have had guides "strong arm" me, the good old "you are in our area." It doesn't take long to quit thinking of our resource as animals, but instead as dollars. I am allowed to harvest one sheep as a resident of Alaska and I have never exercised this right, therefore I am no threat to the guides. If I were to exercise my right as a resident, I would be taking from ten to twenty thousand dollars away from a small business man. This is the root of the problem in my opinion.

You will always have a small percentage of the population that will disregard rules and regulations, be it a rouge guide or pilot. "Outlawing" aircraft use during specified times is NOT the answer. We need to limit the number of hunters and follow our state constitution which states whom the resources are allotted to in these times of declining populations.



Submitted By
Dennis Roe
Submitted On
5/20/2015 7:32:11 PM
Affiliation

Hello,

I have been an Alaskan resident, pilot, and hunter for 34 years and have hunted sheep. Proposal 207 should be rescinded, as it is a bad regulation. The state does not have the authority to regulate where we can fly. In addition this regulation would be unenforceable and would only be a potential harassment for hunters who use airplanes for transport. Existing regulations with the definition of "take" could be used to prosecute someone using an aircraft to harass sheep. This 207 regulation would make legal activity (flying in the mountains) a crime and is just wrong! You need to work with the local advisory boards to make changes to sheep hunting regulations.



Submitted By

Doug Wilson

Submitted On

5/20/2015 6:48:29 PM

Affiliation

I have flown my aircraft to alaska 5 times in the last 10 years and hope to do so again many more times. . Each time I have flown to Alaska sheep season was open for part of the time I was in staste .I was not sheep hunting on any of the five trips ,

How ever I am fearful that the back country flying and camping that I do while there could be a violation under the current wording of ~Proposal 207.

Thank you

Doug Wilson

Submitted By
Douglas Malone
Submitted On
5/21/2015 12:47:15 PM
Affiliation

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Homer, Alaska 99603

Members of the Alaska Board of Game:

Thank you for extending the 2016 Proposal deadline. There was much public confusion in the wake of 207 passage, the subsequent special meetings; leaving us wondering what is is exactly we are being asked to propose change on for the Statewide Cycle.

Much controversy has arisen with the passage of proposal 207 last March. While I agree and advocate the "unenforceable", "unalaskan", "unsafe" etcetera arguments in opposition to 207 (im sure you have had an earful already) , I feel that the biggest hurdle to jump is the apparent degradation of the public proposal process. I urge the Board to rescind Proposal 207 as it was adopted last March at your special meeting May 28.

The proposal process has begun falling apart. From the Board's election to continue "kicking the ram down the road" in recent years in the face of many well-thought, intelligent public proposals; to introducing its own proposals 7 months after the deadline for the rest of us and mere weeks prior to scheduled deliberation; passing its own proposal at the last hour of the Regional Meeting in Anchorage in the face of overwhelming public opposition, lack of backing biological data, and warnings of difficult enforcement by the Troopers; to apparently omitting from the Call for Proposals for 2016 Statewide Meeting (this is certainly a statewide issue) 92.008 Harvest Guideline Levels, this list is getting long.

Rescinding 207 as carried will open the door to deliberate on this statewide issue at the statewide meeting, no doubt drawing many thoughtful proposals from the public that the Board may hear, amend and vote upon. I for one would support and will be proposing an amendment to Article 2 in 207, changing the same day airborne rule to 24 hours following flight (much easier to enforce, would have a similar effect on crowding and pressure issues, would be progressive and furthermore I believe should be applied to all big game statewide.) As I understand you will not have the option to amend 207 at the teleconference meeting, so please rescind the new law until it can have its time on the public forum, be vetted by ADFG, AC's and the public, and bring all this testimony and information to the table when you deliberate on this and other sheep issues at Statewide next March in Fairbanks.

Thank you for your time taken to read my comments. I have tried to be brief.

Your service is appreciated

Sincerely,

Douglas Malone

Homer AK



Submitted By
Dustin Tallman
Submitted On
5/20/2015 12:48:29 PM
Affiliation

As a life long Alaskan, I never thought I would see the day that our Board of Game would pass such a superfluous, bureaucratically minded, vague, and DIVERSIONARY proposal as General Proposal #207. Though I do agree that spotting sheep, landing nearby, and waiting until it is light enough to kill said sheep is unethical, this proposal will do nothing to solve unethical behavior by Guides or Alaskan Residents. The opportunity for this to inflict unnecessary hardship on accused individuals is extremely high and will be a waste of time, money, and resources for both the accused and the State of Alaska.

The health of our game populations for harvest by residents should be the #1 consideration when submitting, reviewing, and effecting proposals. Our State Constitution clearly states that. Proposal #207 does nothing to increase sheep research or help to form a solid management plan. There is no evidence supporting the idea that spotting sheep from aircraft is even close to the top of the list of things that are affecting sheep populations. Because there is nothing we can do about the weather, over harvesting in concentrated areas and overcrowding (ie; pressure), should be addressed long before we limit the rights of residents that are fortunate enough to have aircraft. Guides will still use their aircraft to spot sheep and make note of where the sheep are. They will just do it before the dates listed in this proposal, as their livelihoods "depend" on it. Without guide concession areas, they can go into a concentrated area, kill a majority of the legal rams and move on to another concentrated area the next year. A resident doesnt necessarily have the luxury of that amount of time, and will therefore be looking for sheep as they travel through sheep country. That doesnt necessarily mean that they will shoot the sheep that they happen to be looking at while flying through sheep country. The "24 hour rule" makes way more sense in this case and would be way more cut and dry in a court of law. I'd even support a "48 hour rule" if thats what it took to help our sheep population.

With that being said, there are other avenues within our control that should be carefully reviewed; increasing the dollar amount for sheep harvest tickets (and actually using that money for sheep research instead of going to the General Fund), reducing the amount of out of state hunters that guides can take on as clients per year, making non resident sheep hunting a draw only opportunity, reducing the amount of hunters that Air Taxis can drop off in certain areas, forming a rule that would make it illegal to shoot a sheep within 24 or 48 hours of landing, and/or going back to guide concession areas, all make way more sense than proposal #207.

The discussion of the health of the sheep populations around Alaska has been going on for quite some time, with many players involved and many great proposals being discussed. Not once have I ever heard a resident or Guide come up with anything like proposal #207 as a solution to the problem. How this was passed is beyond me and is a real disappointment for me and my family. It does nothing for the health of the sheep and therefore does nothing for my kids and future grandkids except limit their rights and potentially create unnecessary hardship in the event that they are ever accused.

I respectfully request that Proposal #207 be repealed and that a working group be formed as outlined by the Alaska Outdoor Council in order to truly come up with solutions to the the problem.

Sincerely,
Dustin Tallman

Alaska Board of Game
dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

May 20, 2015

Re: I oppose Proposal 207

Dear BOG:

I oppose Proposal 207 for two reasons. One – It will be an unfairly governed regulation; and, Two – it is an unbalanced method of regulating sheep hunters or sheep populations. I will address the second reason in a separate letter.

The primary reason I oppose Proposal 207, is the disproportionate enforcement actions brought against pilots resulting from false accusations. The false accusations will be unintentionally brought forth by uninformed hunters, and intentionally flung by hunters with petty turf protectiveness. A few hunters get to their sheep areas using, four-wheelers, horses, or the rare hunter delivery vehicle via highway. But the majority of sheep hunters are transported to their hunt area by personal, guides' or outfitter's aircraft. That is a lot of aircraft flying near sheep habitat. How many aircraft tail numbers will be recorded and will be accused of spotting sheep?

I hunt Moose and Caribou (and Ptarmigan) in Unit 13C. When flying from Eagle River to Tok, I pass through several sheep hunting areas/Game Management Units. To get to 13C, I fly from Tok through Tok Management area and additional Game Management Units. When flying through sheep (and other game) hunting areas, I try to use courtesy to guides and hunters by flying direct through valleys and passes. I have no reason to spot and circle sheep in the areas I fly though, but the typical inclement fall weather dictates flying below mountain peaks. And flying below mountain tops means turning around at cloud choked passes – which will be construed as circling around sheep.

The rule of “innocent until proven guilty” is a foreign concept when under investigation by Fish & Game, or any State of Alaska law enforcement personnel – especially investigations sanctioned by bureaucratic rulers. Even if no actions are taken against accused pilots, the investigation will remain on their record.

Adding to the State of Alaska regulatory enforcement actions, the Federal Aviation Administration will heap more administrative actions against a falsely accused pilot – and Federal bureaucrats are especially fond of “guilty until proven innocent”.

Proposal 207 will only add to the work load of existing law enforcement personnel. Or the State of Alaska must add more employees to the payroll. Not to mention distracting law enforcement personnel with the false (intentional or not) accusations and taking time away from stalking true criminals.

The cost of defending a pilot against State of Alaska (and then FAA) enforcement actions started by false accusations will be unaffordable for 98% of us Alaska resident pilots. False accusations brought on by Proposal 207 language will result in the forfeit of pilot licenses, aircraft, guns, and more importantly, reputations.

Please find another method of enforcing and regulating to obtain the results on your agenda. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



Dwayne R. Bertholl
Eagle River, Alaska

CC: also submitted comments via website



Submitted By
Ed Soto
Submitted On
5/20/2015 8:51:28 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game:

Please consider rescinding prop 207's restriction on spotting sheep for resident hunters. Then spotting of sheep and analysis of terrain is integral to safety of hunting in the mountains. Restricting this activity will pit hunter against hunter and jeopardize safety in the air. It will also focus intense flying activity just before opening day again increasing the risk of flying and concentrating hunters where they would otherwise spread participation out thru the season. This restriction will not address the issue of dwindling sheep populations or hunter conflicts and may actually increase hunter conflict and density.

Enforcability for this will be difficult and costly. In some cases, species may overlap and pilots may wrongly be accused of spotting sheep, when they were looking for other species or early crossing over a pass or ridge enroute to another location.

I understand a sheep hunters working group is being considered. This would be a great venue to provide further analysis and recommendations for improving sheep hunting.



Submitted By
Ethan Williams
Submitted On
5/21/2015 10:04:49 AM
Affiliation

Phone
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Address
PO Box 872691
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Board of Game Chairman and Members, I am glad to see more time being allowed for consideration of a very sensitive situation regarding our Dall Sheep Management Plan. I am against Proposal 207 as a management tool of dall sheep. The proposal has been called an experiment which is exactly what it is. I would rather see an experiment of just shutting down the season totally. It is widely recognized that we have a shortage of sheep so management needs to be implemented to reduce the harvest in order for the population to recover. Proposal 207 will have no affect on populations and will not put more sheep in the mountains. Please consider rejecting 207 and using the time and energy to improve our current management plan. Thank You. Ethan Williams

Submitted By
G Origer
Submitted On
5/21/2015 4:51:29 PM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game Members,

Proposal 207 should be rescinded due to its inadequate language. I understand the motive behind proposal 207. We need to protect our Dall sheep population from over harvest and secure equal access for all resident hunters in all areas. Population studies suggest trends over time and its seems Dall sheep population is declining at the present. The need to address this issue is obvious, the solution is not so obvious.

The current proposal 207 language is just plain irresponsible. I find it hard to believe that it was proposed in the first place. Many others have highlighted how difficult it would be to enforce and even more difficult to defend against an unjust charge. It will be a waste of time for the court system.

The only scenario I can think of that explains the current language is to slash the Dall sheep harvest. It will succeed in doing this because of the nature of sheep hunting. It is a very difficult animal to hunt with lots of time and money being spent on preparation and the actual hunt itself. Those of us concerned with being falsely accused will be effectively shut out of sheep hunting with our airplanes for fear of huge legal fees to defend ourselves.

There have been numerous incidents of guide-hunter altercations in the past. Some have been "accused" of being in a guide's hunt area, confronted, and told to leave. This language will make it very easy to construct a false accusation. Guides that hire out their flying have a clear advantage with this language. It would be virtually impossible to prove a hired pilot told the guide where legal sheep are located. Contrast that with overly possessive guides wanting to keep out unwanted hunters. Again, a false accusation would be a simple solution. I have nothing against lawful guides, they are as passionate as all of us about hunting.

Guides harvest a much higher percentage of sheep than non-guided hunters. Start being responsible to the residents of this state and limit the number of tags allotted to non-resident hunters. Most states limit nonresidents/aliens to 10% of wild sheep harvest.

It would seem the airplane is under attack. Or is it the airplane owner? Alaska's geography and the remote nature of some areas make it only accessible with an airplane. As proposed, we will be required to fly into our hunting area blindfolded. If we see a legal sheep on the way into camp and subsequently take that sheep, we will be subject to being charged even if we saw the sheep by chance. There are unethical aircraft owners but focus on them and not the law abiding ones. I have owned my airplane for 13 years. Just owning an airplane does not guarantee success in sheep hunting. I have succeeded in harvesting only 2 sheep during those years. One of those sheep was in the Tok management draw hunt area.

Next, the 4 wheeler will come under attack.

How about other solutions? Increase the draw hunt areas. Designate more walk-in areas. Limit non-resident tags. Expand predator control areas.

Again, I ask the board to rescind proposal 207 language. Look for a more equitable solution that will "level" the field instead of punishing out one part of the population.

Thank You,

Respectfully,

G Origer



Submitted By
Jacob Schwartz
Submitted On
5/20/2015 9:47:18 PM
Affiliation

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ram40@mtaonline.net

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4039 Birdsong Drive
eagle River, Alaska 99577

I do not support and urge the board to rescind proposal 207. It will have no positive impact on sheep management.

Submitted By
Jerry Kallam
Submitted On
5/20/2015 6:03:50 PM
Affiliation
Jerry Kallam

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Address
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Palmer, Alaska 99645

I am requesting that the Board of Game rescind Proposal 207 that prohibits the use of aircraft to spot Dall Sheep during hunting season.

This proposed regulation will not serve the Boards intention to boost sheep numbers and will only water down existing game law enforcement resources with a law that lacks clarity and enforceability. There will never be a time when an observer on the ground can tell whether a pilot is using his plane to spot sheep or just to scout landing areas, to spot animals other than Dall Sheep, or to find an area to hunt in that is void of other hunters.

Under the regulation as proposed am I allowed to scout for a missing hunter during the season without fear of being turned in for spotting sheep illegally? This is a scenario that has happened to me more than once where multiple aircraft were used to attempt to locate overdue hunters. Under the proposed law any sheep that is in the area we searched is out of play for the entire hunting season. Why do I have to risk being falsely accused of violating the law just to help someone out.

There are numerous areas that have sheep back in the Knik Valley that coexist in the most popular bush plane practice area in the State. Areas like Friday Creek and Hunter Creek are traveled by pilots that have a variety of agendas. Pilots may be spotting for moose, bear, or just exploring for new challenging places to land. Other pilots may be out enjoying the scenery above East Hunter Creek with no hunting plans whatsoever. It's very easy for the observer on the ground to be confused as the actual intentions of the aircraft above and without any real malicious intentions, file a complaint against an innocent and unsuspecting pilot.

If you land your plane in Monarch Mountain Bowl in the Talkeetna Mountains, you will need to do several circles to assess the winds prior to making the final one way in approach. In that bowl there are usually sheep and caribou around. If it's legal to spot for caribou and not for sheep what are the ramifications if a pilot lands and hunt the next day both species. A video of this prudent procedure would be easy to confuse as illegal spotting of sheep.

In the Brooks Range you can hunt sheep, bear, and caribou in the same area as they coexist in many places. I'm not sure how I can spot for bear and caribou and not risk being accused of spotting for sheep.

There are so many uses of aircraft during the sheep season that could be mistaken as unlawful under the proposed regulation that makes the misapplication of this proposed law a certainty. It waters down already thin law enforcement efforts with a law that pits enforcement agents against law abiding pilots. It's a law that at best will redistribute the harvest of sheep from one use to group to another and will do nothing to increase the sheep population.

I hope that the Board of Game considers other methods than Prop 207 to increase sheep populations. Non-motorized areas and shorter seasons are definitive solutions that are known to increase game populations. At the same time these types of regulations are not subject to confusion and interpretation. They provide our taxed enforcement officials with a clear definition of what constitutes a violation. These types of solutions will benefit all stake holders in the game resource of the State of Alaska.

Submitted By
Karen Gordon
Submitted On
5/21/2015 4:48:31 PM
Affiliation
Self

May 21, 2015

To Chairman Spraker and Members of the Board of Game:

Regarding Board-generated Proposal #207

Please rescind this BGP.

While I understand the intent of this proposal, a couple reasons prevail in weighing the balances against it. The first issue is that there really isn't a defined problem. The second is that there are no dependable data that substantiate a problem.

We hear anecdotal stories about pilots behaving badly, but what defines "badly?" The line between pilot intent and pilot actions are not necessarily ascertained accurately by those on the ground. How does one sort out what is a pilot's intent such that that conclusion could be supported in court? Enforcement of such regulations would be extremely difficult and would result in wasted time and money on the part of the Troopers.

And in the end, what is the conservation concern? This BGP needs to be rescinded and let the normal AC/Board process deal with what the public thinks is a problem along with the consideration of how they would like to see this issue dealt with if at all.

Regarding a Dall Sheep Working Group

No sheep working group is necessary. **The majority of the public doesn't want a working group, but vested interests do.** Suggestions of a working group came up after repetitive proposal submissions from a tiny cabal of hunters who wanted nonresidents to be disadvantaged via regulations despite the lack of any data suggesting nonresidents were the basis of any reason to discriminate against them.

Three members of the wood bison working group testified before the Board of Game that they thought that a sheep working group was absolutely **not** the vehicle to settle anecdotal Dall sheep issues. Moreover, the Board has at its fingertips "expert" working groups - Advisory Committees.

To create a working group is an abdication of the Board's responsibility to carry out its own duties, especially allocation, when the Board already has its own "local experts," the Advisory Committees.

If that weren't enough, the idea of handing over the Board's responsibility to a group of non-professional special interests, some of who have financial conflicts of interest in allocative outcomes, is not in the state's best interest and violates the trust the public has in the Board to keep any decisions or allocation fair to all. A working group has no business doing the job of managers and the Board.

CREATE NO SHEEP WORKING GROUP. The Board should stick to its allocative responsibilities based on actual data, not anecdotal reports from a few aggravated hunters.

Sincerely,

Karen Gordon

Fairbanks

From: [Lars Gleitsmann](#)
To: [DFG, BOG Comments \(DFG sponsored\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Alaska Board of Game Prop 207 Special Meeting
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2015 4:45:12 PM
Attachments: [AK-Airmens_150423 BoG Comments.pdf](#)
[EAA Alaska Hunting Policy Letter BoG #207.pdf](#)
[Proposal 207 - EAA Comments to AK BoG 23rdApril2015.pdf](#)

Dear Board of Game chairman and members, and further to whom it may concern:

As the elected government affairs officer of an local Aviation Grassroots Organisation (the EAA Chapter42) I want to hereby oppose the Proposal #207 as written. The #207 as fostered by Ted Spraker and Ned Turner is very clearly a "Government Over-reach" issue:

The State of Alaska has the authority to create laws related to hunting. This is an attempt to create a law **regarding flying** by the **AK-State Board of Game**. The Board of Game should limit itself to hunting – **not flying**.

The Alaska Supreme Court has very clearly held that there are no superfluous words in statutes and, as such, every word has important meaning. I can provide citations for you. The proposal clearly states the following: Quote

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. (End of Quote)

The AK-BoG simply cannot regulate the use of aircraft that are not actively involved in hunting, as that is a matter of the FAA! Of course the BoG can regulate Aircraft use as part of hunting activities, which is ok and understandable, but this wording clearly does not draw the lines as it should. So, at best, we would see this as inept and uneducated wording by the BOG. Following statements made by Ted Spraker it is clear that this is a planned and deliberate action, way overstepping the boundaries of the mandate of the BoG. If actually applied as law, after review of the AK A.G. , it will never stand in court and there are already official statements by State-Troopers about it not being viable. There are many members of the local A.C. of the BoG that have already resigned in protest to the clear executive fiat committed by Ted Spraker. The A.C. Members said that #207 was not in fact based on desire by multiple public comments, but that it was made up by Spraker and Ned Turner. -Rumor and Grapevine already has it that it was based on Lobbying by a rich Lodge Owner who brings in "out of state hunters" by the use of horses. Be all that as it may; It is clearly not a viable regulation:

"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."

This prohibits the use of aircraft between August 10-September 20 to do anything other than what is



listed. So, for example, my son and I go sheep hunting and get two sheep. On the way out, we decide to take a fly-by of the kill site (several miles in). In doing so, a Trooper seeing me doing it. This is illegal. This conduct had nothing to do with fair chase or same day airborne, but it is illegal under this proposal. It is a restriction on flying.

"Using an aircraft for the purpose of spotting sheep or locating Dall sheep during the open hunting season is prohibited."

This is clear and unambiguous. This means that if anyone decides to fly in the Alaska Range to spot sheep for taking pictures, it is unlawful for him to do so between August 10 and September 20.

It also means that if I take a sheep this August 10 and decide that I want to fly around in the mountains of the Alaska range this September looking for 2016 sheep hunting spots, it is illegal.

The State of Alaska has the authority to create laws related to hunting. This is an attempt to create a law regarding flying.

They could have very easily and very clearly put out further restrictions on hunting and spotting animals from aircraft for the purpose of hunting, but instead they consciously chose to broadly restrict "flying in the mountains" for any other purpose. Off course this is in conflict with FAA rules and the general "fly as low as you want over un-inhabited terrain" etc etc. ... Here we clearly have a Government Entity, the Board of Game, that consciously voted (one member voted against this so called "Proposal #207") to exceed its mandate to regulate hunting and ventured into regulating flying...

It also creates serious safety hazards as pilots who know about this may fear enforcement of it and thus alter their normal operations to "stay legal". To fly low in the mountains is often necessary because of Cloud Layers preventing flight over the mountains, thus planes fly through mountain passes. The same is true due to icing conditions and high wind conditions. With 82% of all Alaska Villages (official AK-DOT number!) not reach-able by the national road system, mountain flying is a way of life in Alaska and often the only way for Essential Services. The concentration of aircraft into the few days before the season will increase mid-air conflicts and the risk of suspension will compel many pilots to accept lower weather standards and landing options. By passing #207, the Board shows appropriate caution and diligence with the lives of rams, but casual disregard for the safety of human pilots and their passengers.

So, we can only hope that #207 gets voted out or revoked. At a minimum the wording needs to be modified. If that is not the case it is clear to our membership and our national aviation organisations that there will be lawsuits as a follow up to curb this executive fiat. I also seriously doubt that the FAA will leave this "mission creep", as they might call it, be without any legal action.

If Proposal 207 becomes a regulation, we feel it will be unenforceable because it inappropriately infringes upon the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government (FAA) to regulate the airspace of the United States. This infringement might have been an unintended and/or inadvertent consequence of Proposal 207, nevertheless it violates the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution, Proposal 207 cannot be enacted as written. There is a whole list of lost lawsuits where local authorities tried to usurp airspace authority from the FAA, and failed. I be glad to provide that list, if anybody wants to see it.



Your recent action to ignore AC recommendations, majority public testimony, and law enforcement guidance in order to pass prop 207 was a poor use of process and thereby failed to fully consider the impacts and consequences of this type of regulation. It needs to be repealed in special meeting before it can go into effect.

I am attaching letters from Aviation Organisations regarding this matter. As there are issues with Spam filters, please confirm receipt of this email.

Best Regards,

Lars Gleitsmann,

EAA chapter 42, Government affairs



Cheryl Brooking
1031 West 4th Avenue #200
Anchorage, AK 99501

Dear Ms. Brooking,

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) is submitting this letter on behalf of its membership in Alaska in response to a policy recently adopted by the Alaska Board of Game. This policy places a restriction on aerial sheep spotting for hunting purposes between 10 August and 20 September.

EAA members have raised concerns that the language in this policy leaves it open to wide interpretation. It is important to note that while the authority of the Alaska Board of Game is to regulate hunting, we wish to reinforce that the FAA has sole jurisdiction over all activities within the National Airspace System. EAA seeks to ensure that pilots who have no intention to hunt and are flying in areas highly populated by sheep will not be cited by Alaskan authorities. Flying in Alaska involves complex challenges that other pilots flying elsewhere in the United States do not experience. Operating aircraft in and out of Alaska's unforgiving terrain requires careful planning. EAA members in Alaska wish to be assured that the processes they use to identify safe take off and landing zones will not be misconstrued as attempts to spot sheep.

EAA strongly encourages the Alaska Attorney General's office to carefully review this policy and consider its implications to Alaska's flying community. The process used to implement this policy should be developed to ensure that it in no way inhibits general aviation in Alaska.

We thank the Alaska Attorney General's office for considering our feedback regarding the implementation of this policy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Elliott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "E".

Sean Elliott
Vice President, Advocacy and Safety
Experimental Aircraft Association



Alaska Department of Fish and Game
P.O. Box 115526
1255 W. 8th Street
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Board Members,

The Experimental Aircraft Association (EAA) is submitting this letter on behalf of its membership in Alaska in response to Proposal 207, a policy recently adopted by the Alaska Board of Game that places a restriction on aerial sheep spotting for hunting purposes between 10 August and 20 September. EAA opposes this proposal and strongly encourages the Alaska Board of Game to rescind it, as it has the likelihood of negatively impacting Alaska's flying community.

It is important to note that while the Alaska Board of Game has the authority to regulate hunting, we wish to reinforce that the FAA has sole jurisdiction over all activities within the National Airspace System. EAA members have raised concerns that the language in this policy leaves it open to wide interpretation. Flying in Alaska involves complex challenges that other pilots flying elsewhere in the United States do not experience. Operating aircraft in and out of Alaska's unforgiving terrain requires careful planning. EAA members in Alaska believe this policy could lead to legal action against them if the processes they use to identify safe take off and landing zones are misconstrued as attempts to spot sheep.

We thank the Alaska Board of Game for recognizing the concerns of Alaska's flying community and meeting to review the merits of this policy.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sean Elliott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "E".

Sean Elliott
EAA Vice President, Advocacy and Safety



4200 Floatplane Drive
Anchorage, AK 99502
907-245-1251
adam.white@alaskaairmen.org

April 23, 2015

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

RE: SUPPORT OF AGENDA ITEM TO CONSIDER FUTURE MEETING ON PROPOSAL 207

Dear Board of Game members:

The Alaska Airmen Association is a strong voice for general aviation in Alaska representing over 2000 members. Our mission is to “promote general aviation in Alaska.” Membership includes pilots, mechanics, aircraft owners and others that have an interest in aviation. On behalf of our membership, thank you for the opportunity to submit the following comments pertaining to the agenda item for the Board of Game teleconference meeting scheduled for Friday, April 24, 2015.

The Alaska Airmen Association supports the request for a future meeting to consider rescinding Board action on Proposal 207, as amended, related to aircraft restrictions during sheep hunting seasons.

The Alaska Airmen Association does not intend to insert ourselves into any hunting issues. We leave those issues to hunters and others with an interest in sheep hunting. Instead, our concerns focus on how Proposal 207 restricts the right to operate an airplane. If Proposal 207 becomes a regulation, we feel it will be unenforceable because it inappropriately infringes upon the exclusive jurisdiction of the federal government (FAA) to regulate the airspace of the United States. This infringement may have been an unintended and/or inadvertent consequence of Proposal 207, but because it violates the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution, Proposal 207 cannot be enacted as written.

Sincerely,

Adam White
Government Affairs

Submitted By
Leif Wilson
Submitted On
5/8/2015 2:42:22 PM
Affiliation
40-Mile Air

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box 707
Tok, Alaska 99780

To All,

I am very thankful that something positive has come out of all of the commotion and time spent on the sheep issue recently. The biggest complaint that hunters that we provide transportation to have is Air planes that are looking at sheep. Some rich guy or a guide shows up from anchorage about August 10 with a big tank of fuel in the back of the truck and starts flying all day every day. They land at one spot, spend a day hunting, if they blow it they start flying again. Every hunter we pick up has a story to tell about being bothered or having there hunt screwed up, some worse than others. I go talk to them and they tell me that they were to busy to come up to do there scouting previous to the season opening. Some of them get mad at me and I am the [REDACTED] for even talking to them about it.

In my opinion people who want to hunt in this manner have zero consideration for others.

We operate nine Airplanes and a helicopter and don't get close to sheep once the season starts, it is only common courtesy.

Thank you for passing proposal 207.

Leif Wilson

Tok Alaska

Submitted By
Loren J Karro
Submitted On
5/21/2015 11:29:45 AM
Affiliation
Self

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Palmer, Alaska 99645

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Proposal 207. I am glad that the Board is reconsidering their action on this proposal.

Prior to the Regional meetings, I spent a lot of time considering both Board generated proposals. I think that Proposal 208 showed some real ingenuity in addressing one of the issues brought forward in the recent sheep hunting survey, but I was glad that the Board of Game put off its consideration until the statewide Board meeting in 2016 (and hopefully after a sheep working group has been formed and met). However I am at a loss as to why Proposal 207 was the only statewide proposal that was voted on and passed at the Region II meeting. I think this proposal should also have been tabled until after a sheep working group had been formed and had time to consider the many issues involved in sheep hunting; and at the least been properly considered at the statewide meeting. Additionally, I don't see Proposal 207 as seriously addressing any of the major issues brought up in the sheep survey or in any public testimony, and believe that, as passed, it will actually worsen a major concern of overcrowding during the early part of the season.

The biggest issue of all is why this proposal is even being considered. It doesn't address the major concerns of conservation or allocation. It seems to be a push to 'change how sheep hunting is done' by limiting use of aircraft and unfairly punishing airplane hunters. On the whole, pilots who hunt are ethical and fair chase members of the hunting public. The Board of Game, immediately before voting on Proposal 207 at the Region II meeting, said that Boone and Crockett could disqualify rams taken with lawful use of aircraft; this is patently **incorrect**. Boone and Crockett board members have affirmed that any rams legally taken in Alaska are eligible for inclusion in their awards. Some Board of Game members spoke of anecdotal accounts of poor behavior by an aircraft pilot; this does not and should not serve to extend to condemn the majority of Alaskan hunters who use airplanes as "unethical". Indeed, when many of the public who presented testimony during the meeting were asked point blank if their hunts had been disturbed by aircraft buzzing sheep, they said it had not happened to them.

Proposal 207 is not only based on a shaky or nonexistent foundation of concerns, in practice it will cause many more problems than it is purported to solve:

1. It will seriously increase overcrowding at the beginning of the season as hunters will scout for groups of sheep, landing areas, and good camp sites before August 10th and then want to hunt immediately. Overcrowding at the beginning of the season was a problem recognized by the sheep survey results.
2. It will put sheep hunters in areas where the season is divided into multiple draw seasons at a serious disadvantage. They won't be able to even check to see that other hunters aren't already in the area they want to hunt in, or that there is a viable sheep population in the area.
3. It will concentrate even more air traffic in the few days before sheep hunting season begins, as pilots do their scouting for sheep, camps and access before such efforts can earn them a citation. This will increase safety concerns for all pilots. It will also increase other safety concerns. Many pilots might be less inclined to do necessary flybys over their chosen landing spot to check for recent problems such as flooding, brush, rocks etc before landing, in fear that they will be accused of looking for sheep or other 'nefarious' activity. Even if the landing area was fine before season, later hunters might find that high water or mud/rock slides have encroached upon it.
4. It unfairly targets a specific hunting group: sheep hunters using aircraft. In reality, the majority of sheep hunters use aircraft to access their sheep hunting areas, whether they own an airplane, fly with a friend, or use an air taxi service. I am not a pilot, but have flown with many excellent pilots throughout the state. The hunters not piloting their own aircraft generally presume that the pilot has at least established that there are some sheep in the area being hunted. There are some walk-in areas for those who don't want aircraft access around them, and there are some who only access their sheep hunting areas on foot due to cost or other consideration. There are also hunters who access sheep areas using atvs, boats, airboats, and horses. Why are these methods not limited or constricted? Why isn't general access restricted for the hunting of other game species. ATV owners may complain about aircraft, but they could charter significant air time for the cost of the ATV (horse or boats also). As I have testified in the past, it is our personal choice where, how and when to hunt sheep within the confines of the existing seasons and regulations. In the absence of conservation issues, all of these options should be left open.

The Proposal is unnecessary as there are already laws and regulations in place, both on the statewide and federal areas, that prohibit things such as harassing game and harassing other hunters. During public testimony at the public meetings where it was on the agenda, people spoke 2 to 1 against this proposal. The same held true for written testimony, and some of the written testimony in support of Proposal 207 **incorrectly** claimed that the Boone and Crockett club supported such a proposal and that any sheep spotted by aircraft



before being hunted was disqualified under Boone and Crockett's ethical code. This is not true. The Anchorage, Fairbanks advisory committees voted against Proposal 207. The vote of the advisory committees is supposed to hold serious consideration before the Board of Game.

Although members of the Board of Game have publicly stated that the Department of Public Safety's and the public's concern that this proposal will be very difficult to enforce does not hold water in their consideration, this is a major issue. No members of the Alaska State Troopers spoke out in favor of the proposal, and all that I heard and spoke to expressed serious concerns about it. They submitted testimony that as passed it will be very difficult to enforce. Its enforceability may not concern the Board of Game, but it will concern the public who are trying to interpret it and the Troopers who are supposed to be enforcing it.

In my estimation, Proposal 207 unfairly targets a specific hunting group (who are the majority of the sheep hunters) without addressing any conservation, allocation or safety concerns. I have always had great respect for the Board of Game as a whole. Even when I don't agree with action they take, I believed that on the whole they listened to the public and the Department of Fish and Game biologists and took the best interests of the game populations and the public to heart in making their decisions, within the dictates of the State Constitution, state laws, and their own mandates. In this instance, my respect is lost. I don't understand why the Board of Game generated their own proposal with no conservation or allocation issues, and then passed it after overwhelming public, advisory committee and law enforcement testimony against it, while not even waiting for a statewide meeting to consider it. The bottom line for all of us hunters, and the bottom line for the Board of Game, should be to maximize opportunity and access within the confines of conservation and population concerns (which must be foremost in all considerations). This Proposal is contrary to that abiding principal.



Submitted By
Mark Schwartz
Submitted On
5/20/2015 9:44:49 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907 694 5556

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ram40@mtaonline.net

Address
4039 Birdsong Drive
eagle River, Alaska 99577

I do not support and urge the board to rescind proposal 207. The proposal is too restrictive and has no benefit or value in the management of Dall sheep, and will cause more crowding at the start (first 10 days of the season) of the sheep hunting season which has already been identified as the main concern as it will cause anyone utilizing an airplane prior to the start of the season to focus their hunting efforts in areas based on the information obtained by use of the airplane prior to the start of the sheep season. the public has already spoken out against this proposal and I do not believe that the will of the people should be ignored.

Submitted By
Michael Makar
Submitted On
5/21/2015 1:18:05 PM
Affiliation

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907-441-1535

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Address
15621 Stanwood Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99516

To whom this may concern,

I am a resident of the great state of Alaska for more than 40 years. I have a strong opposition to the proposal 207 for several reasons.

First, it will create more problems than it will solve. The enforcement is difficult at best and will expose any pilot who flies their airplane over mountainous terrain to potential litigation. As a professional airline pilot this greatly concerns me. Will there be a mapped out area designated as a no fly zone for two months due to hunting presence?

Second, this will not put more sheep on the mountains. If populations are low, restrict hunting not flying. Make restrictions for all hunts. I suggest non Alaskans first, then, residents to support our legal constitution. All non res hunts on draw permit, and a two sheep lifetime limit for all.

Finally, I would like to have my children to have the the same wonderful hunting opportunities that I have. I feel that this restriction is misguided. I hate seeing airplanes in the area that I am hunting more than anything, but restricting aircraft is only going to cause problems. If you restrict the number of hunters then the aircraft problems will go away as well.

Submitted By
Mike Crawford
Submitted On
5/20/2015 8:27:49 AM
Affiliation

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Email
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Address
PO box 2067
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

The reconsideration should be denied. I am the chairman of the Kenai-Soldotna AC. We were unable to get a quorum for an emergency meeting. This is out of our normal meeting time period. I traveled to the board meeting this winter. I spent my time to testify and comment on the sheep proposals. To ask us to take the time out of our busy schedules, with no new info is a waste of time and resources. On a personal comment if the reconsideration is granted this would be a vote against fair chase hunting. This is why we do not allow the use of helicopters for hunting. Allowing hunters to fly around in season to spot sheep is not a good idea. We have declining sheep populations. Still allowing hunters to access the hunting area by plane is still allowed. There is time next meeting season to bring this up and allow the public to have their say on this matter.

Submitted By
Mitch Falk
Submitted On
5/21/2015 11:51:38 AM
Affiliation
Bullwinkles Pizza

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9074635252
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bullwinkles1@gci.net
Address
318 Willoughby Ave
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear BOG members,

I would like to thank the board for initially adopting Proposal 207. I believe it is a first step in a long overdue process in addressing the many issues facing Dahl sheep. I believe Proposal 207 as it is written is a positive move in the right direction with very little negative impact or downside. To not formally adopt Proposal 207 and to completely take it off the table is a move in the wrong direction for the benefit of a very small minority.

I also believe a sheep working group is a positive move with zero downside.

Sincerely, Mitch Falk

Submitted By
Paul Claus
Submitted On
5/20/2015 10:07:35 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-854-5061
Email
paulclaus.ak@gmail.com
Address
Box 109
Chitina , Alaska 99566

Dear Board of Game,

Thank-you for the opportunity to make additional comments on proposal 207.

I live and make my year round livelihood in the Wrangell/St.Elias National Park, We own an Air-taxi, Guiding concession, and recreational tourism business, I fly approximately 1000 hours a year in this area to support the various entities of our business.

I am very much apposed to the 207 proposal as I see no way of enforcement and only the potential for huge headaches between protection personnel and both consumptive and non consumptive users of the wilderness resources..... Let me me give one example of what I mean. During the sheep season we have a full Lodge of recreational tourist and we daily fly in sheep terrain for both sightseeing and hiking adventures, how would someone on the ground know if I had hunters in the plane or recreational people??

Also in the area we operate, there are both sheep and goats in the same terrain. Goat season opens in the middle of the sheep season, I don't see anything in proposal 207 saying anything against spotting goats, who would know which one I'm looking at???

Additionally, we have a very good aviation safety record and one of the reasons for this is, we have a policy to check out a landing site a couple of times even if it is a place we have been before, prior to landing, if this is done in sheep terrain, it could easily be miss interpreted as spotting sheep!!

Once again, I see proposal 207 as nothing but a nightmare for everyone involved and I'm very much against it!!

Again thank you for the chance to comment!!

Sincerely,

Paul Claus

Submitted By
Randy Stahl
Submitted On
5/20/2015 1:38:53 AM
Affiliation

Dear Board of Game Chair and Members,

Dispite not acting on the hundreds of sheep proposals from the public over the last several years, the BOG under the leadership of chairman Ted Spraker, developed their own proposal despite the objections of Alaska State Troopers, local Advisory Committees, and vast majority of overwhelming public testimony. Ted Spraker stated the Boone and Crockett organization, would disqualify sheep killed after they were spotted from aircraft from being intered into their record books. He is a lair, and should not serve on this board.

The BOG is ignoring the Advisory Committees, which represents the Alaskan residents.

There is already a law in place that prevents harassment of game by aircraft. This prop does nothing for the over crowding in my opinion. I can see it making the over crowding worse in the first weeks of sheep season.

I request the BOG rescind Prop 207

Sincerely,

Randy Stahl



From: Rowland Lawson
390 Endicott Dr
Soldotna, AK 99669
907-394-1002

May 21, 2015

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen of the Alaska Board Of Game,

I have been a resident of Alaska for 13 years and I am an avid hunter and fisherman. Please do not allow Prop 207 to be enacted into law for the following reasons:

1. Prop 207 will give the guided hunters and even bigger advantage over the unguided hunter as the guides are usually into sheep country well before season opens and before the unguided hunter. Therefore the guides will be able to spot sheep while the unguided hunter will be blind.
2. I don't think this regulation will be easy to enforce and just adds to the already overly complicated hunting and fishing laws in Alaska.
3. Because the opportunities to spot for a mature rams are taken away. I believe more young immature rams will be taken well before they have matured to their maximum trophy potential if prop 207 is enacted.

Regards,

Rowland C. Lawson

Submitted By
Scott Altenburg
Submitted On
5/20/2015 11:55:59 AM
Affiliation

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Anchorage, Alaska 99507

I DO NOT support proposal 207.

As a long time Alaskan and avid outdoorsman I enjoy hunting/fishing in Alaska via boat, airplane, bicycle, skis, and on foot.

This proposal seems to have nothing to do with managing the sheep population and everything to do with guides preserving their ability to kill sheep and make money doing so.

There is no way you can possibly enforce or monitor these rules. Guides who work a particular area will already have in-depth knowledge of where the sheep are because of their ability to "look" for sheep when traveling in and out of an area. This puts Alaska residents, like myself, at a disadvantage. Guides will be coincidentally seeing sheep while flying and use it to their benefit and I, as a local Alaska hunter would be doing something illegal if I was observed seeing and then later killing a sheep. When I fly into a new hunting area with my airplane I must fly multiple times up and down a drainage/area to safely choose a good landing area that I have most likely never seen before. With proposal 207, I could be accused of spotting sheep when in fact I was making sure I had a safe place to land!

In my opinion, you should look at the data and see who kills the most sheep in Alaska. I believe you will find that guides and their clients are the majority. If that's the case, then limit the bag limit allowed by guides until you have numbers that support the sustainable yield as directed by our constitution. Otherwise, with this proposal, all you are doing is pushing Alaska residents who own/operate airplanes into restrictions that are not needed. Our hunting regulations already include rules that prevent unfair hunting practices relating to the use of aircraft!

Lastly, I understand that Dall Sheep are a trophy animal and provide a lot of income to the state when hunters hire guides. I would challenge you this: manage the sheep population for the benefit of the people of Alaska, not for the money sheep hunting brings in. That is a tough thing for the board to do, but it's the right thing to do.

V/R,

Scott Altenburg

907-229-3564

May 21, 2015

To the Game Board:

This letter is to let you know that I highly object to proposal 207 limiting the use of aircraft during sheep season. The rules that have been in place for a number of years are plenty adequate to cover any problems or violations.

Thank you,

Scott Mobley

Scott Mobley
PO BOX 102
Kenai, AK 99611

Submitted By
Sheila Pierskalla
Submitted On
5/21/2015 2:42:14 PM
Affiliation

To Members of the Board of Game,

I am a non-hunting general aviation pilot and have been an Alaska resident since the sixties. I have purchased a hunting license a couple of times, but have never hunted - not my thing. I fly a super cub with large N-numbers and I love to fly the mountain ranges of Alaska! The fall colors are brilliant, if you start in the Brooks Range and fly south you can enjoy fall colors in different mountain ranges from August through September. I also enjoy viewing big game animals and take lots of pictures of scenery and animals. My animal pictures aren't that good because I don't get that close but the scenery makes up for it! I am a non-consumptive user of this resource and I should not have to worry about any John or Jane Doe reporting me as a violator of the new sheep regulations. As far as I know the only way to counter a citation from the state for an accusation of violating these new regulations is to hire an attorney costing me and the State thousands of dollars for what would be in my case and probably many others - a false accusation.

The State of Alaska already has rules in place regarding the use of airplanes when hunting.

If some other regulation is required to manage our sheep populations for sustainable use - eliminate ownership of helicopters by registered guides/outfitters. Or, at least, regulate helicopters out of hunting camps and the field in general for the entire hunting season. Also, the same day airborne rule for sheep could be extended to 36 hours. Simple stuff, less gray area and easier to enforce.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sheila Pierskalla



Taiga Resources Conservation



PC083
1 of 6

a management and consulting firm specializing in conservation based natural resource industry support. We provide industry, governmental, regional, and community assistance in understanding, developing, and maintaining conservation based initiatives that will help sustain long term stewardship for important social/cultural atmospheres, fish, wildlife, land/water habitats, and industry developments within them.

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May 21, 2015,
Lower Tonsina, Alaska

Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Board of Game
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Re: Written Testimony for the May 28, 2015 Special Board of Game Meeting

Dear Alaska Board of Game,

The following comments are submitted in addition to previous comments submitted by Taiga Resources Conservation for whom I am the founder and CEO. They are submitted from my knowledge and long history of representing wildlife conservation, hunting and the professional guide outfitter industry within Alaska and the United States.

Please know that I continue to serve by nomination from every United States Professional Guide and Outfitter Association and joint appointment of the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture on the bipartisan Whitehouse created Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council. From this history, knowledge and advocacy the following comments are submitted.

For the reasons defined below, please accept these comments as continued support for Proposal 207 as well as the very important development of a "Wild Sheep Working Group".

Throughout Alaska, North America and the world there are fish and wildlife conservation failure histories that parallel where Alaska lies today relative to our conservation and hunting of wild sheep. These examples should be readily identified by enhanced fighting to maintain means and methods of harvest and historical harvest over prudent conservation and restraint of opportunity.

We are very fortunate that we have the processes we have that can protect our

wildlife through our conservation mandates and actions while at the same time provide continued hunting opportunity. This is very important because hunting is a vital aspect of the success of the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and the future of healthy wild sheep populations in Alaska.

As the Alaska Board of Game has:

- a. Received numerous proposals encouraging reduction of wild sheep hunting opportunity relative to overcrowding of hunters in certain regions.
- b. Knowledge of conservation concerns relative to wild sheep populations in areas where sheep hunting has been closed by emergency order for conservation reasons which will in fact move hunters from these regions to other regions.
- c. Taken action to implement restrictive drawing permit hunting opportunity in geographical regions where large numbers of hunters live and continued human harvest provides concern.
- d. Knows that the additional creation of drawing permit hunts in certain areas will create a “domino effect” of moving hunters from one area to another.
- e. Carefully encouraged, watched and reviewed the development and results of the recent Alaska Sheep Hunter survey.
- f. Looked and listened carefully at what actions they could take which would support continued conservation of wild sheep populations in Alaska and still provide hunting opportunity within fairness and respect for all hunters relative to allocation and conservation funding.
- g. Recognized that reducing certain means and methods of hunting specifically utilization of airplanes to find and harvest sheep with would continue to support best interest of the whole hunting opportunity while at the same time addressing effectively all of the above listed concerns,

They have in fact taken the one action they could which would effectively addresses conservation needs and continued hunting opportunity within the best interest of the whole. This action needs to be supported and continued.

Additionally, because of the heightened concerns of conservation and balancing hunting opportunity, the natural next step in this process of wildlife conservation should be the development of a “Wild Sheep Working Group”.

After many years of traveling the wildlife conservation path, the greatest success efforts have always come from pulling the parties who care most about conservation of wildlife together, and working together to effectively address efforts in keeping with constitutional mandates that provide for conservation measures which provide

for healthy wildlife populations. To rely solely on the existing processes pits wildlife and hunters and managers in a continuing spiral of enhanced decline, fighting through differing concepts, policies and ideologies of management and declining opportunities. By pulling all parties together within a working group, respectful conservation and fair hunting opportunity can and will be found.

Please support both of these initiatives for the best interest of the whole.

The following comments on this topic were submitted to you last month and I have included them again herein for your continued review.

What the Alaska Board of Game has done by adopting Proposal

Proposal 207: For the best interest of Alaska, our wild sheep populations and all people who enjoy knowing that Alaska cares about prudent stewardship and respect for them, I fully support the BOG adopting this proposal as you have and strongly urge you to continue with your support for it.

This proposal as passed begins the process of respect that our wild sheep populations and all hunters and conservationists deserve. Yes, you will hear a hue and cry from people who depend upon an airplane to find and then kill wild sheep or those who have been conditioned to believe that using an airplane to find and kill big game animals is an acceptable means and method of harvest. I disagree with this cry for the short and long term best interest of the whole.

This proposal is very important for our wild sheep that deserve our respect and all people, whether they be people who just enjoy seeing or hearing about healthy wildlife populations and know they are being taken care of respectfully or those of us conservationist/hunters who know that hunting goes hand in hand with the great North American Model of Wildlife Conservation.

You as the Board of Game have the responsibility and the ability to steer Alaska's wildlife conservation and hunting heritage into the future and I believe that for this heritage to be viable and sustainable, the foundation has to be built within the state founding fathers constitutional mandates with the additional side boards of "Resource First and Fair Chase" ethics.

Resource first is simple; we do not hunt or book hunters unless we have harvestable surpluses of healthy wildlife populations. Currently, we have serious concerns over wild sheep science, inventory and overcrowding of sheep hunters nearly statewide. How could you as the BOG not support actions such as Proposal 207 in light of these serious concerns? You are right on track with this proposal and I urge you to continue to support it.

Some will suggest that you as the Board of game should not have to address ethics. This is a wrong supposition as our ethics as hunters spell our future to hunt. Taking

this vein a little further, the truth of it is that only six percent of America's human population hunts and about the same percentage of Americans oppose hunting, with the remaining 88 percent who hinge the balance of steering the pro or anti-hunting percentage.

With the rate of ecotourism and wildlands being visited by non-hunting public throughout many of our sheep ranges growing, we have to be fully respectful and cognizant of the delicate balance we have.

In today's world here in Alaska, any person who uses an airplane to search over habitats which may or probably does have other hunters or non-hunting public within them to find an animal to kill is working against the best interest of the whole and against the principles of fair chase.

I wish there was a way in which I could place each of you in the many instances during my thirty plus years of guiding sheep hunters and hunting sheep in Alaska that my clients from all over the world have had to stop their quality wilderness fair chase hunts to sit and watch a pilot or multitudes of pilots with their airplanes search every nook and cranny of the sheep habitats searching for rams, and when they find them, grinding the country to determine if the rams are trophy quality and legal and then, systematically search the country to find the closest place to land, followed by landing, setting up a camp, often multitudes of trips to support additional hunters or clients and then an effort the next day, to kill the sheep identified from the air.

As a general resident hunter example, on my wife's and my only ever personal hunt over thirty years ago we utilized an air taxi service to drop us at a location, found a band of mature rams, conducted a long stalk just in time to have an airplane fly into the valley we had been placed, buzz our camp, clearly see us and the rams and then conduct a systematic hazing to run the rams out of the country. This noise brought a legal bull moose out of the brush below our camp which we decided to focus on only to have the airplane spend a number of passes running him out of the country as well. Our one and only personal sheep hunt had been ruined. Reaching out to the FAA and AST a few days later we were told that they had so many similar complaints that they could not follow up on them.

There is a long history of airplane use by hunters in Alaska and it is an important manner and tool with which to continue to support hunting with. However, using the plane as a tool to find and then kill a specific animal is not in the best interest of the whole.

It was not surprising to see Dr. Brinkman's survey results and then see your proposal addressing airplane use, and then see that the majority of the ACs did not support it. ???

Do we think this concern is just going to go away? Are we naive enough to believe that it will not grow?

Dr. Brinkmans work showed the dissatisfaction sheep hunters have with aircraft impacting their sheep hunting experience. There are numbers of resident hunters and guides who have historically explained to me that it takes between 40 and 200 plus hours of flying to produce a 40 inch ram. This type of impact on the country, the wildlife, and other hunters, especially those who cannot afford to own or operate an airplane is just not right.

Any professional guide, air taxi or transporter should know the habitats and the wildlife populations within them well enough to know how many hunters they can book to have good harvest success without having to jump into an airplane or multiples of airplanes to go and search over habitats other hunters or tourists are enjoying, to find an animal to kill.

As well, any resident hunter should be able to recognize that an every year harvest of a once in a lifetime ram is not respectful of the whole. Resident hunters, guides or transporters all have the ability to fly habitats before the sheep season to discern population densities that support a quality hunt.

I encourage you again to support your proposal to limit the use of aircraft, to encourage hunters to respect the wildlife and others in the field and to take it even a bit further and incorporate the same standard that the BGCSB adopted some years ago that prohibits the use of an aircraft to spot an specific animal with the intent to harvest that animal.

O yes, you will hear the cry and theory of how unenforceable it is and how any flight may be misconstrued to be seen as a flight to search for a specific animal etc.. This is not sound reasoning. With today's current and growing high tech photography and videography ability in the field, anyone who resorts to negatively impacting wildlife, other hunters or non-hunters in the field is subject to rapid identification and recording of defined actions. Any reported history of such actions also lends itself to enforcement.

Or the cry of, if you are going to restrict airplane use to kill an animal with you need to also limit horses, boats, atv's, etc.. The true response to this is that we do not utilize these other forms of access to conduct wildlife population density surveys with and they do not represent the potential abuse factor that aircraft do. This issue is not about this mode of access versus that mode of access, it is rather, an issue of "respect for the whole".

Truly, anyone who steps into a plane and uses it to locate an animal to kill regardless of the impact it is causing to the wildlife, the wilderness experience of others or to other hunters in general, knows what those impacts are and if they don't, they should.

They also know what the more respectful use of aircraft is to the whole when they are used to support the logistical aspect of a hunt rather than used as a tool of

harvest. I believe that it goes along ways towards preserving Alaska's wildlife conservation and hunting heritage to take the high road here and to show the average Alaskan hunter and hunters from around the world that we do respect them and the resources and the quality of the experience they are dependent upon or hoping to enjoy.

Please continue to support proposal 207 as passed.

Please also turn together and work to create a sheep management working group. After many years of watching and participating in wildlife conservation throughout North America, I firmly believe that the people which would be incorporated into such a group can better influence prudent, respectful and needed stewardship conservation than what can be expected by the wildlife and conservation agencies on their own. Your BOG process is the most democratic of all wildlife conservation and management programs. However, this particular issue in light of conflict, needed science and turning together warrants establishment of the working group.

As Always, Most Respectfully,



Robert Fithian



I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THE NEW RULE ON
SCOUTING FOR SHEEP WITH AIRPLANES. I
DON'T BELIEVE IT WILL HELP ARE SHEEP
POPULATIONS.

TOM D'AGOSTINO



Submitted By
Tracy Schwartz
Submitted On
5/20/2015 9:46:47 PM
Affiliation

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907 694 5556

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southfork@mtaonline.net

Address
4039 Birdsong Drive
eagle River, Alaska 99577

I do not support and urge the board to rescind proposal 207. It will have no positive impact on sheep management.

Submitted By
Travis Anderson
Submitted On
5/3/2015 10:04:00 AM
Affiliation

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9076871811

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North Pole, Alaska 99705

The newly adopted rules open up a huge population of criminals because of poor wording. Alaska already has a "fair chase" rule in place. What is different about this rule than the "same day airborne" rule that is found on page 19 of the ADFG regulations? As a pilot, hunter, outdoorsman, and one who believes in fair chase, this rule puts me at risk of prosecution for doing things that are apparently not supposed to be covered by this ruling. When I am flying throughout the great state of Alaska and I see any animal (whether it is a moose, bear, caribou, buffalo, or sheep) I may take a moment to circle back and observe them. This is just out of my curiosity as a human looking at God's creation. I also do the same thing with interesting rock formations, canyons, and glaciers. So because I hold a hunting license, and I may be flying by a glacier or mountain and circle around to get a good picture of it, and there happens to be sheep nearby that I may or may not have seen or cared about, am I now a criminal between August and September? Is it also going to be illegal to scout out potential hunting areas to see if they are navigable by foot, just because it is between August and September?

Now to talk about the enforcement. As a pilot, I operate under FAA rules. The FAA is the one who will flight-violate me. Right now, you would have to put a Temporary Flight Restriction across 80% of the state's class G airspace for the months of August and September. This is unrealistic, absurd and a waste of time.

Bottom line, is it sounds like the person who proposed this regulation got their feelings hurt years ago by someone who had an airplane. Instead of going and sorting out the problem man to man, they are now in a "position of power" and are using their feelings to make rules for their own sake.



Submitted By
Tyler Andrews
Submitted On
5/16/2015 4:43:10 PM
Affiliation
Voter/Citizen

It is the constitutional responsibility of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) to manage Dall sheep on a sustained yield basis for maximum use consistent with the public interest. The rational and research used to support Board Proposal 207 explicitly states that hunter conflict is the issue to be resolved. Resolving hunter conflict is not the highest priority; sheep abundance is the highest priority. A contributing factor to low abundance in game animal populations is the introduction of commercial interest into the hunting and harvesting equation. At the heart of many sport hunting regulations is the idea that the elimination of commercial interest takes away the temptation of some people to over exploit resources and deplete a game population to levels that no longer allow harvest. Sadly, Board Proposal 207 has the impact of supporting commercial interests that have and will continue to exploit and deplete the sheep population for financial gain. Transporters using established airstrips benefit from the restrictions placed on hunters by board proposal 207. The independent hunter using their own aircraft is the only participant that will feel the impact of the restrictions in Board Proposal; the group that has the least impact on the population of sheep. Worse than overstepping its bounds, the Board's action with Proposal 207 serves to harm the abundance of sheep by regulating only those participants that are most easily regulated. Again, pursuit of hunting and harvest for financial gain depletes the abundance of sheep.

Submitted By
Wayne Heimer
Submitted On
5/19/2015 2:57:00 PM
Affiliation
self

Phone
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weheimer@alaskan.net
Address
1098 Chena Pump Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

My name is Wayne Heimer, and I continue to be a Dall sheep biologist. I was once a Dall sheep manager, but have been retired from that function for a long while.

I urge the Board to reject proposal #207. The problem the proposal seems designed to address has been poorly defined, and is based less on fact than on folklore and frustration. The practice of spotting specific rams from the air and then hunting specifically for them certainly has, and does occur. Nobody knows to what extent. Similarly, the practice of "hearing about" a big ram and going to look for him occurs. Neither practice has been shown to make any material difference in the harvest of Dall rams or the conservation of the species. The regulation which would follow passage of #207 is not enforceable, will be a bother to everyone, will produce no real benefit to the sheep resource, Dall sheep hunters, or economy and general well-being of Alaskans. In fact, I anticipate it will be detrimental to all of those important mission objectives. From out here, Proposal #207 looks like a "consolation prize" the Board has chosen to award to those activists who have besieged the Board with special interest proposals for several past cycles. Those failed proposals were, like #207, based primarily on emotion and not fact. **Please reject proposal #207. It's more trouble than it's worth.**

REGARDING A WORKING GROUP:

I applaud the Board for rejecting the special interest proposals which had been submitted over the last three cycles. They were not fact-based, and would have provided no benefit to sheep, sheep hunters or the economy and general well-being of Alaskans. Now the issue is "What next?" One proposed answer for the "What next?" question has been the suggested formation of a working group to either create or critique revised management plans for Dall sheep.

Creating a working group is not the best way to begin revising management plans. The special interests calling for a working group, and certain to be included in one, just had their "shot" at revising the management plans through the regulation proposal process, and the products were not considered worthy of passage. Hence, I presume, that's why their proposals were rejected. It would be unseemly to give the special interests a 'second bite at the apple' when they didn't propose changes based on fact or statutory criteria last time.

Hence, I suggest the Board NOT FORM A WORKING GROUP, but instead send the Department a letter of resolution requesting that the Department take it's management responsibility for Dall sheep more seriously, and "get busy" reviewing and redrafting the existing management plans. Once the manager of record, the Department of Fish and Game, has done it's work, it will be appropriate for the public to review and comment on the plans. Naturally, the Department should avail itself of all relevant information and input in drafting the plans. It is neither the responsibility of the public or the Board to be the driving force in this business. Nevertheless, the Department needs some "direct urging" to get this done. I think the best the Board can do is to **pass a resolution requesting the Department "get serious about this."**

There are many decisions to be made before anybody makes a management plan. The most basic is to agree on how Dall sheep live, and what Dall sheep need to survive and thrive. That means the basic beginning decision is whether or not to believe the biological and harvest data we have on hand are relevant to future management of Dall sheep. Are we going to manage within that data-based context, or just let special interests or "general ungulate behaviors" (which might or might not be relevant to sheep and their needs and adaptations) guide the regulations necessary for management. To date, the recent disagreement has been over allocation. Allocation may be the end point of management, but that's certainly not all that's involved in managing Dall sheep according to Alaska's Constitution and Laws. A management plan is much greater than an allocation plan. I've bored you with this notion before, but there's new news.



Just this week, I learned that the predisposing factor in wild sheep pneumonia (a pathogen called *Mycoplasma ovipneumon*... identified in Alaska at the Alaska Zoo and the Wildlife Conservation Center. ADF&G says this pathogen is not found in the wild. Right now, our highest priority should be to make sure this organism never gets into the wild. We must not get so involved in allocation of the existing or remaining sheep that we fail to protect Alaska's Dall sheep from the most basic mistake managers can make...letting disease into our herds. Perhaps our priorities need to be indented. A working group is about the third or fourth priority in my opinion. It is way behind protecting our Dall sheep from diseases we can never eradicate.

Wayne E. Heimer, Dall sheep biologist



Fax to: 907-465-6094

May 20th, 2015

Alaska Board of Game,

Thank you again for your efforts and for reading and considering my comments. I urge you to rescind proposal 207 on May 28th. I sincerely hope you will choose facts over emotion and personal feelings, and realize that passing 207 was very divisive, will make crowding worse at the start of season, and will increase the risk of aircraft accidents and collisions. I know these were not your intentions, but in hind sight it's pretty hard to deny that these negative consequences can't or won't occur.

The Brinkman survey, when taken in context, clearly showed that resident over crowding is a much larger social problem than sheep hunters abusing Super Cubs. 8 out of 10 hunters on the mountain are residents plus an additional .5 are their 2nd degree kindred. According to table 5 on page 14 of the Brinkman survey, an airplane circling was #5 or 38% very intolerable to all resident hunters, and the top 4 issues that are a direct result of overcrowding ranked 77%, 67%, 48% and 46%. Yet the BOG chose to act on 207, and as a result, the hunting community is a lot more divided now than it was only a few months ago. Trust in the BOG process has also diminished.

The Brinkman survey also showed that lots of resident sheep hunters use transporters and air taxis. As a group, residents who used those services expressed the highest level of dissatisfaction by quite a margin over groups that use other means of access. Sheep hunters with their own Super Cubs make up only a small percentage of hunters. Even if you could completely eliminate them, you will have done very little towards alleviating resident crowding, conflict and hunt quality issues. There are too many air taxis and transporters blanketing the country side with scores of resident sheep hunters. Also, 207 will push residents with planes who want to comply with 207 and get away from the crowds, into the early part of the season and will only make crowding worse. **What if we have a mid air during early August?** 207 certainly will increase the odds of that happening.

Some board members and proponents of 207 constantly verbalize that spotting sheep from the air - even several days in advance, is unethical and not Fair Chase, and claim that the Boone and Crockett Club shares this opinion as well. I think these persons are extreme in their view points towards airplanes, scouting, ethics and Fair Chase as it applies to sheep hunting. I don't think their views are representative of the vast majority of Alaskan hunters, nor the B&C Club. BOG members who voted for 207 claim that they are doing the right thing and are representing the silent majority of hunters who don't own their own Super Cubs. This is a myth! The Fairbanks, Mat-Su and Anchorage AC's - which probably represent close to 75% of Alaskan hunters, voted almost unanimously against BOG proposal 207, and at the April 24th BOG teleconference - which only allowed 1 day of public notice - about 118 comments were opposed to 207 and only 6 or 7 favored it.



Proponents of 207 who have claimed for years that if an animal is spotted from the air it is not eligible for Boone and Crockett, are wrong. PC 129 submitted by the Boone and Crockett Club to the BOG for the April 24th, 2015 BOG sheep teleconference states: "*in summary, Boone and Crockett is going to continue to accept trophies taken legally in Alaska as long as the required time after flying, as specified in Alaska regulations, has been honestly observed*". **This has been B&C's position ever since Alaska's same day airborne law was passed roughly 40 years ago.**

I think it's wrong for the BOG to delegate their personal ethics through the BOG process. B&C invented Fair Chase and states to the effect that "Fair Chase" is subjective, shaped by personal choice, and it is up to each individual to set their own standards. Also, that the club's eligibility rules are not intended to define or limit the concept of Fair Chase or divide hunters (taken from paragraph 4 of B&C's December 6th, 2014 records eligibility statement found at the following link: http://www.boonecrockett.org/about/positions_Records_Eligibility.asp?area=about&ID=6B455080&se=1&te=1)

I'm not defending constant, low level circling, passes, harassment, etc., but I strongly feel 207 is much too restrictive. Developing a proper etiquette hand out or dvd with regards to airplanes and hunting, maybe changing the season to where all hunters can only hunt the first 10 days of sheep season every 2nd or 3rd year, changing the NR harvest to one every 4 years, and a few other tweaks I've heard mentioned, would do more and be much less divisive than 207. A sheep working group would be a good tool to help achieve this. **Please rescind 207 on May 28th.**

Wayne Kubat

Master Guide 147

Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Attachments included: table 5 from Page 14 of the Brinkman Survey / Boone & Crockett letter to Wayne Kubat dated July 4th, 2007 / PC 129 from Boone and Crockett Club to BOG dated April 23rd, 2015 / Page 1 from B&C Club position statement on Big Game Records Eligibility.



hunters that perceived a problem were statistically less tolerant of all situations presented. Resident sheep hunters found interruptions to their stalk, the inability to get away from other hunters, and the sight of multiple other hunters and camps while hunting the least tolerable situations. The sight of a small plane passing over was the only situation that both groups found tolerable.

Figure 9. Mean extent of hunter tolerance, that did (n=502) and did not (n=162) perceive a sheep hunter problem, for different levels of crowding while sheep hunting (-2=very intolerable, -1=intolerable, 0=neither, 1=tolerable, 2=very tolerable). *Groups significantly different at 0.05.

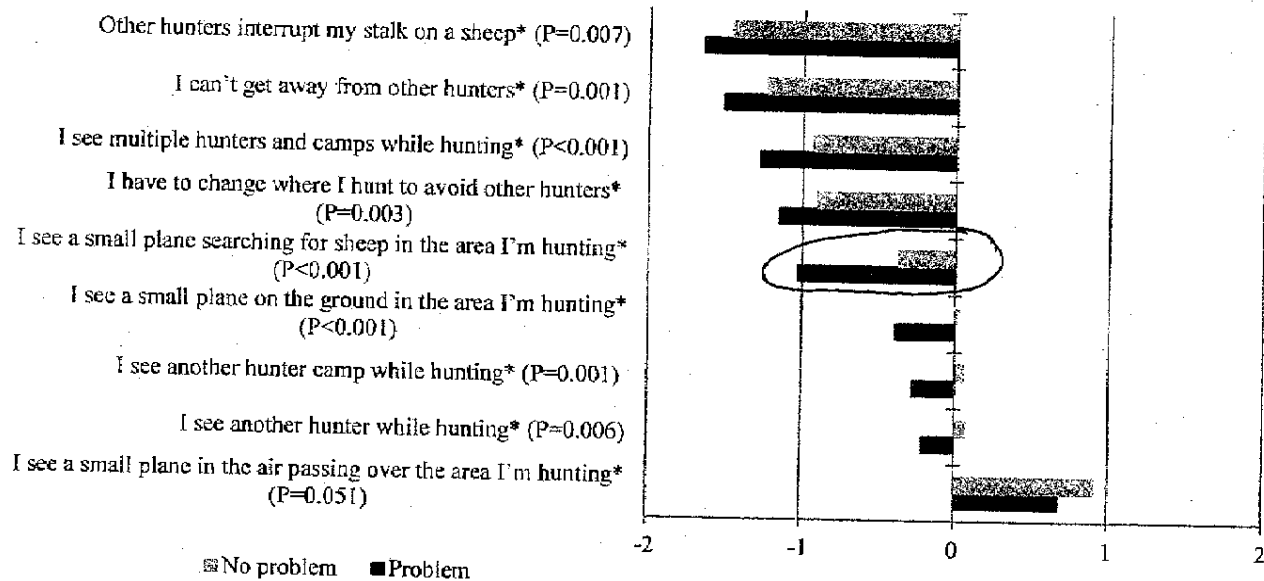


Table 5. Extent of tolerance or intolerance with different levels of crowding while sheep hunting when ALL resident hunters were pooled.

Levels of crowding	Very tolerable	Somewhat tolerable	Neither	Somewhat intolerable	Very intolerable
Other hunters interrupt my stalk on a sheep (n=665)	1%	2%	8%	12%	77%
I can't get away from other hunters (n=662)	1%	2%	14%	15%	67%
I see multiple hunters and camps while hunting (n=665)	3%	6%	8%	35%	48%
I have to change where I hunt to avoid other hunters (n=665)	3%	8%	13%	30%	46%
I see a small plane searching for sheep in the area I'm hunting (n=665)	3%	15%	11%	32%	38%
I see a small plane on the ground in the area I'm hunting (n=666)	6%	27%	18%	32%	18%
I see another hunter while hunting (n=664)	6%	30%	21%	31%	13%
I see another hunter camp while hunting (n=664)	5%	26%	24%	33%	12%
I see a small plane in the air passing over the area I'm hunting (n=667)	30%	38%	13%	14%	4%



boone and crockett club position statement

Big Game Records Eligibility

First Adopted December 6, 2014

Situational Overview

The Boone and Crockett Club sets the rules for entering a trophy into its records books. These rules, as stated in the Club's Entry Affidavit, are based primarily on principles of wildlife conservation and fair chase. The Club's trophy entry rules have gained wide acceptance, and in fact, the game laws of some federal, state and provincial agencies are based on the concept of fair chase or use its entry rules.

Nevertheless, the relationship of the Club's trophy entry rules to the broader principles of hunting ethics, game laws, and records programs of other organizations are not necessarily well understood by the public. The Club regularly fields questions about whether a particular hunting method or use of technology will disqualify an entry, why conduct in the field that is legal in a state or province can still be unethical, and how all this applies to records book eligibility.

Position

The big game records of the Boone and Crockett Club are a set of wildlife and hunting data that the Club began to collect over a century ago to track the recovery of big game populations from unregulated overharvesting. The records program of the Club continues to be a useful tool for measuring the successes of wildlife conservation today, as its measuring system provides an indicator of age and habitat conditions for many species. Having sportsmen participate in this data collection system by voluntarily submitting their trophies is vital. Over the years, the Club has developed rules for trophy eligibility based on its desire to collect data that is valuable to game managers, biologists, lawmakers, hunters and others responsible for wildlife conservation in North America.

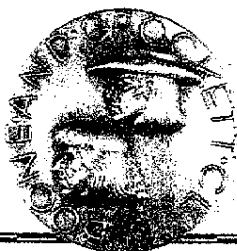
In addition, the Boone and Crockett Club believes it is important to honor the trophies harvested and the traditions of hunting by requiring that all trophies be taken in "fair chase," which is a code of hunting ethics intrinsic to the mission and values of the Club. ([Click here](#) for the Club's Position Statement on Fair Chase). The Club acknowledges that fair chase is a subjective term that represents a spectrum of behavior shaped by personal choice. The Club's trophy eligibility rules are not intended to define or limit the concept of fair chase, or divide hunters. It is up to each individual to set their own ethical standards when hunting. It is up to the Club to maintain a records program that is consistent with its mission, values, and the consistency and integrity of the data collected.

The Club has decided that explaining the rationale behind each of the rules in its hunter entry affidavit will lead to a better understanding of why it excludes entry in its records books of any big game harvested through the use of the following methods, techniques, technology, or under the following conditions:

I. Spotting or herding game from the air, followed by landing in its vicinity for the purpose of pursuit and shooting;

With the popularity of personal aircraft in the 1960s increasing and being used in hunting to access remote areas in North America, it became apparent that some hunters were using aircraft not only to reach their hunting destination, but locate their game from the air, and in the vicinity, and pursue for a shot. In some cases, hunters were using aircraft to herd game into a more accessible situation. The Club determined that this was an unfair advantage to both the game and other hunters. At the same time the Club was instituting this policy, some states and provinces began outlawing the practice and instituting a 24-hour fly rule, which made it illegal to fly and hunt within the same 24-hour period.

II. Herding or chasing with the aid of any motorized equipment;



FOUNDED IN 1887 BY

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

BOONE AND CROCKETT CLUB

ELDON "BUCK" BUCKNER

CHAIRMAN - RECORDS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME COMMITTEE

July 4, 2007

Mr. Wayne Kubat
P.O. Box 874867
Wasilla, Alaska 99687

Dear Wayne:

As promised, I placed the topic of airborne hunting on the agenda at the recent meeting of the Records Committee held in conjunction with B&C Awards in Ft. Worth recently.

This subject has come up repeatedly and elicits strong opinions as you might guess. However, I brought it up this time with your various comments in mind, and also in consideration of the PROFESSIONAL ETHICS STANDARDS FOR GUIDES published in the Statutes and Regulations of the Big Game Services Board of Alaska. As you know, under Field Craft Standards, article (8) states that guides shall "avoid using an aircraft in any manner to spot big game for the purpose of taking a specific animal." This appears to possibly conflict with an earlier provision under C (6) requiring the guide to "advise a client before a hunt of the game population in the hunting area." In large, remote areas, an aircraft may be the only practical way in which a guide is able to assess the game population in his area.

I do not intend to argue the right or wrongness of the Board's rules. However, I appreciate their efforts to encourage fair chase hunting, and in trying to provide for legitimate aircraft use, maybe the wording in (8) above is overly broad. For example, if a guide is flying his area before moose season to get an idea of the moose population so as to inform his clients, and sees a couple outstanding bulls, he's not likely to forget the general area he spotted them in, even though the primary purpose of his flying was not to pinpoint a specific animal.

In summary, Boone & Crockett is going to continue to accept trophies taken legally in Alaska, as long as the required time after flying, as specified in Alaska regulations, has been honestly observed. That position is officially documented but it in no way is meant to encourage the unsportsmanlike abuse of aircraft usage. However, it likewise does not, nor ever was originally, meant to preclude entry of a trophy animal that might have been spotted from air some months before it was stalked and shot.

That said, if a specific trophy animal is scouted from the air for a particular client, then hunted the next day, and the above provision (8) is part of the law, then that animal could not be entered, because the animal would not meet the requirement of having been taken "in full compliance with the game laws or regulations of the federal government or of any state", etc. as specified in



Wayne Kubat, 7/04/07, Page 2

Article IX of the B&C Entry Affidavit, which hunters must sign for any hunter-taken trophy.

Of course, these days, many people are willing to make false statements. But, doing so in conjunction with B&C entries puts any existing entries in jeopardy and prevents any future record entries for that person. We don't play favorites or politics with this provision, as some well-known hunters have discovered in recent years.

We are not going to re-print or re-word the aircraft usage provision at this time as all our score charts, etc. were just recently re-printed to incorporate other changes.

I'm well aware of the conflict between guides/outfitters in Alaska regarding aircraft usage. It is nearly impossible to establish regulations that are entirely fair to all parties under all circumstances. Of course, if everyone observed the "spirit of fair chase" to start with, there would be little need for extensive regulations.

I hope this has been of some help to you. You may show this letter to others at your discretion.

Sincerely,

Eldon "Buck" Buckner

Eldon "Buck" Buckner
Vice-President,
Hunting and North American Big Game Records
Boone & Crockett Club

Copy: Jack Reneau

Submitted By
Tony Caligiuri
Submitted On
4/23/2015 12:27:22 PM
Affiliation
Boone and Crockett Club

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Dear Sirs

We have been asked to clarify the Boone and Crockett Club's position on aircraft with regards to time frames and use as it applies to the club's acceptance of record book entries under the club's rules of fair chase. The club was asked to clarify this issue with regards to Alaskan sheep entries in 2007 and our position remains the same today. Please reference paragraph four from a July 4th, 2007 letter from Eldon Buckner, Chairman- Records of North American Big Game Committee to Wayne Kubat,

"In summary, Boone and Crockett is going to continue to accept trophies taken legally in Alaska as long as the required time after flying, as specified in Alaska regulations, has been honestly observed"

Unfortunately, I am unable to attach the entire letter due to the format of the comments portal but it is on file with Boone and Crockett and I have forwarded a copy to Dan Montgomery, board member of the Alaska Professional Hunters Association as well.

Please do hesitate to contact me directly or B&C headquarters should you need additional information.

Sincerely

Tony Caligiuri

Member, Boone and Crockett Board of Directors

Deputy Chairman, Big Game Records Outreach Committee



Submitted By
william mohrwinkel
Submitted On
5/15/2015 10:04:41 AM
Affiliation

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I support resilution 207 banning the use of aircraft for spotting or locating sheep. I am a hunter and have been concerned about the steep decline in the sheep population. I think this is a positive step in the right direction toward proper sheep hunting management.

I also think it would level the playing field for all hunters. I have, as well as many hunting friends, been on a sheep hunt, spending many day and hours doing a stalk, only to have a plane circle around the sheep I have been hunting and scatter them to the next drainage.

I applaud the Board of Game for proposing this ban and I hope they base their decision on whats best for all hunters and the sheep population and not just a few that have the resources and, in my opinion, a lack of ethics to practice fair chace.

Thank you for your time,

Bill Mohrwinkel