

**Alaska Board of Game Interior/ NE Arctic Region February 17-25, 2017**  
**Lee Kayotuk, resident of Kaktovik, Alaska**  
**Comments on Proposal 113.**

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Oppose proposal 113.

Sheep are an important subsistence for residents of Kaktovik. We have approximately 10 to 15 hunters in the community. We take 8-20 sheep annually in Unit 26C. The most important time of year to harvest sheep is right before Thanksgiving.

I think we should keep the bag limit as 3 sheep because hunters have to snowmachine 80 to 90 miles and hunters should have an opportunity to take a ewe if that is what is available. Hunters may choose not to shoot a ewe, depending on availability of caribou or availability of other groups of sheep with rams. If we find a group with only ewes, we may wait to see if a group with rams come down. But, if someone's hunt is almost over, they may take a ewe. Hunters also prefer to harvest a mixture of age and sexes because that is less hurtful to the population. In most cases, hunters are trying to take rams; but they don't harvest all the rams in a group. We try to balance the harvest. We are concerned about the population of sheep, so we adjust our take base on what we are seeing. We understand that we need ewes to make the population grow.

Sheep populations change over time, depending on predation by grizzly bears and wolves, and weather events. Weather also affects our hunting success.