

PROPOSAL 135

5 AAC 92.085. Unlawful methods of taking big game; exceptions.

Repeal the restriction on the use of aircraft for locating Dall sheep for hunting as follows:

Repeal 5 AAC 92.085(8): [AND FROM AUG 10 THROUGH SEPT 20, AIRCRAFT MAY NOT BE USED BY OR FOR ANY PERSON TO LOCATE DALL SHEEP FOR HUNTING OR DIRECT HUNTERS TO DALL SHEEP DURING THE OPEN SHEEP HUNTING SEASON, HOWEVER AIRCRAFT OTHER THAN HELICOPTERS MAY BE USED BY AND FOR SHEEP HUNTERS TO PLACE AND REMOVE HUNTERS AND CAMPS, MAINTAIN EXISTING CAMPS, AND SALVAGE HARVESTED SHEEP.]

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?

5 AAC 92.085(8) regarding the use of aircraft during sheep season to locate and spot sheep for harvest.

5 AAC 92.085(8) stemmed from a board generated proposal commonly known as Proposal 207 that came out of nowhere and had little support from the public and Advisory Committees. Even the Alaska Wildlife Troopers say it is virtually unenforceable. Yet it has the potential – regardless of the caveats in the regulation – to make pilots act in unsafe ways they may not normally over fears of being turned in for spotting sheep.

The Board of Game (board) determined that using aircraft to spot sheep from the air in order to potentially harvest was unethical. Even though the board allows for the spotting of caribou from the air and same day land and shoot in an area. How is that “ethical” but the spotting of sheep from the air and the same-day-airborne restriction in place is not? This regulation was put in effect for the entire August 10 – September 20 sheep season. However, this regulation was never applied to the youth hunt season August 1–5. That is not at all consistent with the intent of the regulation when one group of sheep hunters is unfairly perceived as different from another.

PROPOSED BY: Fairbanks Fish and Game Advisory Committee (EG-F20-064)
