

**PROPOSAL 3**

**5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.**

Open an archery only season for Dall sheep in Units 13, 14A, 14B, and 16 as follows:

Establish an archery only season in Units 13, 14A, 14B and 16 from **September 21 to October 10.**

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Establish an archery only sheep season in Units 11, 13, 14A, 14B and 16 from September 21 to October 10.

There was an average of 618 rams taken per year from the years 2009 to 2018. The average number of rams taken with archery equipment per year during that same time span, was a total of eight rams. This equates to less than 1.5% of the take of legal rams from 2009 to 2018.

Given the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) data above it seems reasonable to assume there is no biological concern with regards to bowhunters and their potential impact they would have with a lengthened season. This would be available to both residents and nonresidents, allowing guides to extend their season for bowhunting clients. This also would influence sheep hunters to opt out of hunting during the general season with a rifle to plan a bow hunt for the later season. It must also be understood that weather alone could complicate the logistics to hunt sheep during this season extension and therefore potentially decrease the success rate with archery equipment even greater. There would be no need for a registration permit as the prior given data suggests no biological concern and harvested rams already must be sealed by ADF&G.

**PROPOSED BY:** Herb Mansavage

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