



Mark Richards
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Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK)

A Voice for Alaskans! Protecting and Enhancing our Hunting Opportunities!

Board-generated Proposal 204
Close all sheep hunting in Unit 19C
for five years

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Board-Generated Prop. 204 – Close all sheep hunting in Unit 19C for 5 years

Dozens of proposals since 2008 asking to limit nonresident sheep hunters in Unit 19C.

Common theme of proposals to limit nonresident sheep hunters in Unit 19C:
Declining sheep population, crowding and conflicts, and concerns resident sheep hunters would eventually lose opportunity if nonresident sheep hunters were not limited.

Board votes down every proposal over past 15 years to limit nonresident sheep hunters in Unit 19C.

Rationale of Board decisions *not* to limit nonresident sheep hunters: **FC harvest strategy sustainable under all conditions, loss of revenue to Dept & guides**

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The known problem:

- **Unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity allowed by the Board of Game in certain areas**

But the board wanted more information:

- **Dr. Todd Brinkman (UAF) Sheep Survey (2014)**
- **Dall Sheep Working Group (2015/2016) facilitated by Dr. Alistair Bath**

Over \$300,000 spent on Brinkman sheep survey and Sheep Working Group to find out what we already knew:

- **“Residents should have a priority to sheep hunting.”**

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Board of Game changes narrative:

- **The problem is not unlimited nonresident sheep hunters; it’s unlimited guides that those nonresident sheep hunters are required to hire**

Board solution:

- **Guide Concession Program on state lands to limit guides that cost > \$200,000 to study and draft legislation, including a meeting for nonresident guides in the lower 48, soundly rejected by legislature. Would result in same loss of revenues to Department and loss of income to guides that the board uses as excuse NOT to limit nonresident sheep hunters!**

Stalling tactic by the Board to:

- **Avoid limiting nonresident sheep hunters to draw-only permits**

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Most recent proposal to limit nonresident sheep hunters in Unit 19C: **RHAK Agenda Change Request (ACR) #12, 2022 Board of Game ACR Meeting**

Rationale RHAK ACR 12 meets criteria for acceptance: **Known sheep conservation concerns in the unit expressed by the Department and Board, closure of the RY 2020 winter subsistence sheep hunt by Department**

Board of Game unanimously votes down RHAK ACR 12, stating that: **It does not meet criteria for acceptance, is purely allocative in nature; FC selective harvest sustainable, no Dall sheep conservation concerns in Unit 19C**

Rationale for board-generated proposal 204, introduced and approved at the 2022 ACR meeting just after voting down RHAK ACR 12: **Conservation concerns for the Dall sheep population in 19C!**

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RHAK Position on Board-Generated Proposal 204

SUPPORT AS AMENDED to:

- **Close all sheep hunting for nonresidents in Unit 19C for five years**
- **If/when nonresident sheep hunting is again allowed, it is by draw permit only with a strictly limited allocation of permits**
- **No restrictions on resident sheep hunters**

Residents should never bear the brunt of restrictions or closures when the board allows nonresident sheep harvest levels like those seen below

Unit 19C Sheep Harvest (ADF&G data)

Year	Nonresident	Resident	Total	%Nonresident
2018	79	39	118	67%
2019	75	39	114	66%
2020	54	14	68	79%
2021	34	6	40	85%
2022	26	3	29	 90%

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Thank You!
**Board Members
Board Support &
ADF&G Staff**

Let's adhere to the Commissioner's #1 goal and protect our sheep resource & resident sheep hunting opportunities!

"My number one goal, as mandated by Alaska's constitution, is to deliver to the people of Alaska the maximum use and benefit of fish and game resources while ensuring a sustained yield for future generations."

- ADFG Commissioner Doug Vincent Lang