

Proposal 204 19C

Sheep

- Effect of the proposal
 - Close all sheep hunting in unit 19C for 5 years
- Department recommendation
 - **OPPOSE a closure, NEUTRAL on allocation**
- Board generated proposal

9

9

Proposal 204 19C

Sheep

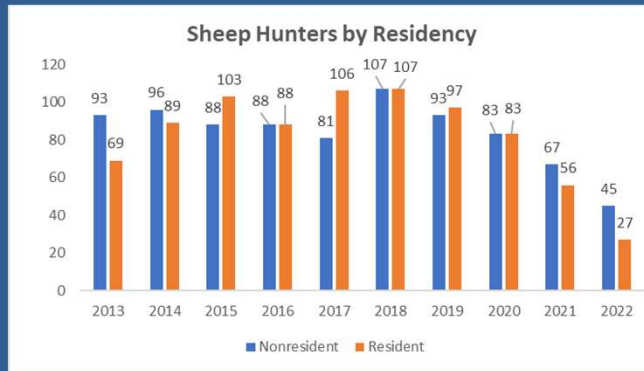
- Current regulations
 - August 1 – August 5 youth hunt by harvest ticket
 - August 10 – September 20 general season harvest ticket
 - October 1 – April 30 winter hunt RS380
- Proposed regulations
 - Close all seasons for 5 years

10

10

Proposal 204
Sheep

19C

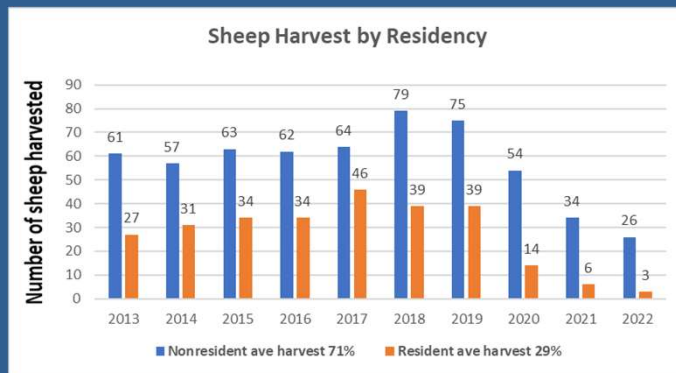


11

11

Proposal 204
Sheep

19C



12

12

Proposal 204
Sheep

19C

Youth Hunt

Year	Harvest
2016	3
2017	5
2018	6
2019	3
2020	2
2021	1
2022	0
Average Harvest	3

13

13

Proposal 204
Sheep

19C

RS380 Winter Hunt

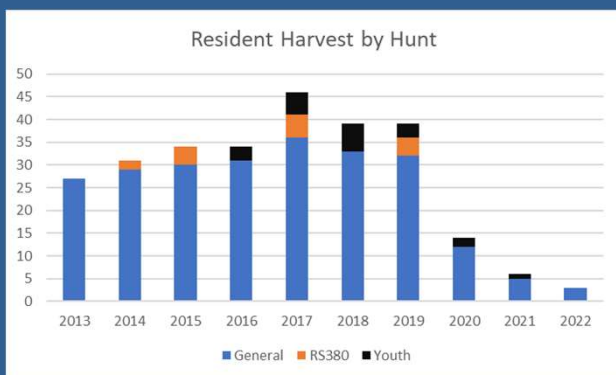
	Ewe Harvest	Ram Harvest	Total Harvest	Total Hunters
RY14	2	0	2	8
RY15	2	2	4	6
RY16	0	0	0	3
RY17	4	1	5	7
RY18	0	0	0	2
RY19	1	3	4	7
RY20 (closed)	0	0	0	0
RY21 (restricted)	0	0	0	0
RY22 (restricted)	0	0	0	2
Average	1	1	2	4

14

14

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C

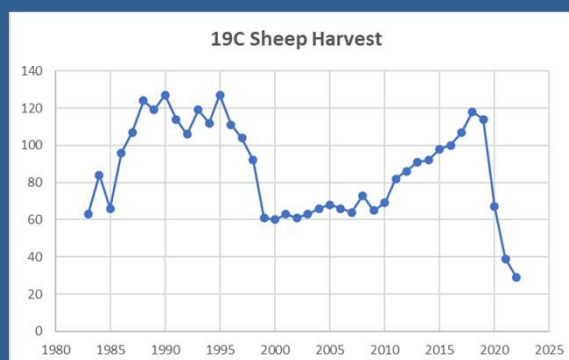


15

15

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C



16

16

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C

Sheep Surveys

- We began consistent surveys in 2010
 - This was the period when sheep harvest began increasing
- 2019 was the first year we observed a decline
 - Sheep harvest did not reflect that
- No survey in 2020 or 2021 due to poor weather
 - 2020 lots of calls concerned about sheep numbers
 - 2020 ACR submitted to close or shorten the sheep season
 - 2021 ACR submitted to implement a nonresident draw

17

17

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C

Sheep Surveys

- Winter 2021/2022 also very difficult
 - Freezing rain on Christmas Day 2021
 - Snow in May 2022 during lambing season
- 2022 Survey Results
 - 5 areas surveyed 436 total sheep
 - Declines 55%-80%
 - 50 lambs or 11%
 - 7 full curl rams or 1.6%

18

18

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C

Amounts Necessary for Subsistence

- Positive C&T determination in Unit 19
 - ANS 1 – 5 sheep
- Winter hunt structured to provide opportunity according to the pattern of customary and traditional use
- In the fall of RY22 residents harvested 3 sheep in 19C

19

19

Proposal 204 Sheep

19C

Additional Considerations

- Hunting closure unlikely to result in population change
- Historically, sheep populations fluctuate
- Sheep carrying capacity unknown
- Closure may displace hunters to other GMUs

20

20

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21

21