

**Dall Sheep Working Group Meeting
February 20 and 21, 2016
Crowne Plaza, Anchorage, Alaska**

Meeting Summary

The Dall Sheep Working Group met in Anchorage February 20 and 21, 2016 at the Crowne Plaza. Thirty-four working group members were present along with agency staff and members of the public. (See attendance list on pages 3 and 4.) The meeting was facilitated by Dr. Alistair Bath. He began the meeting with introductions and asking members what feedback they've received from the organizations they represent. Throughout the meeting, the working group was divided into small groups of four to six and each group was asked to provide comments/answers to questions and topics raised by Dr. Bath. The discussion topics are listed below, and more detailed information can be found on the flip charts produced during the meeting, available at www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=sheepcomm.wgmeetinginfo.

The working group received the following presentations, which are available on the sheep working group meeting website above.

- Summary of the Eastern Brooks Range Harvest and Trends, ADF&G
 - Chugach Sheep Draw Hunts, ADF&G
 - Hunters and Harvest Numbers, Possible Statewide Changes, ADF&G
 - Average Hunters and Harvest, ADF&G
 - Allocation & Legal Ram Evaluation Guide, ADF&G
 - Recent Trends in Dall's Sheep Populations in Alaska's National Parks and Preserves, National Park Service
 - Risk of Disease in Wild Sheep, Dr. Peregrine Wolfe, Nevada Department of Wildlife
- Questions/comments during the presentations are shown on flip chart pages 9-10.

Topics of discussion throughout the meeting included:

- What are your biggest fears of what could happen to Dall sheep management in Alaska? (See flip chart pages 4-8)
- Identifying information gaps and addressing lack of data issues. (Page 11)
- Increasing sheep knowledge amongst hunters and improving educational information. (Page 11)
- Improving communication between ADF&G and hunters and other interest groups. (Page 11)
- Risk of disease spreading from domestic sheep and goats to wild Dall sheep in Alaska. (Page 12)
- Define characteristics of "quality hunting" and "aesthetically pleasing" experiences. (Page 12)
- What innovative ideas could be put forward for discussion to achieve our vision and overcome our obstacles? (Pages 13-17)
- Resident and non-resident allocation. (Pages 19-20)
- Resident preference for sheep hunters. (Pages 19-20)
- Increased resident application fees from \$5 to \$10.

- Youth sheep hunting. (Page 20)

The group spent a considerable amount of time on the topics of resident and non-resident allocation; resident priority for hunting season dates; and youth sheep hunts, all of which are proposal topics for the March 2016 Board of Game (board) meeting. The group did not come to consensus for providing recommendations to the board on these topics.

The group agreed to following concepts and actions:

1. Recommend an increase to number of resident applications that can be submitted per individual for sheep hunts, from three to six, and increase application fee from \$5 to \$10 for residents.
2. Recommend creation of a sheep stamp/tag for residents for \$50.00 and that revenue be "designated" to ADF&G for research and management, which ADF&G would be expected to report to the legislature.
3. Help to minimize risk of disease spreading from domestic sheep and goats to Dall sheep populations by sending a resolution to the legislature and seeking support from Board of Game.
4. Support ADF&G's efforts to standardize the method used by staff to measure sheep horns. Sheep working group members, including advisory committees, are encouraged to provide general comments to ADF&G on the manual.
5. Information on guide use concession areas from the National Park Service is needed.
6. Information from USF&WS on sheep statistics is needed.
7. Improve customer services within ADF&G regarding practice and availability of staff and sealing horns.
8. Support raising nonresident tag and license fees.
9. Residents should have a priority for sheep hunting.

Working group members were interested in scheduling another meeting in the future and agreed to have ADF&G identify a workable weekend in April, 2016. The members expressed an interest in having it in Fairbanks.

February 20-21, 2016 Meeting Attendance:

Sheep Working Group Members

Nate Turner, Board of Game
Stosh Hoffman, Board of Game
Dave Brown, Board of Game
Teresa Sager Albaugh, Alternate, Board of Game
Ron Somerville, Territorial Sportsmen, Inc.
Kevin Kehoe, AK Wild Sheep Foundation
Al Barrette, Tanana Valley Sportsman Association
Jack Frost, AK Bowhunters Association
Brett Barringer, SCI Alaska Chapter
Doug Vincent Lang, SCI Alaska Chapter
Aaron Bloomquist, APHA
Kneeland Taylor, AWA
Tom Atkins, BGCSB
Sue Entsminger, Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council (RAC)
Mark Richards, AK Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
Rod Arno, AOC
Mike McCrary, AK Air Carriers Association
Lou Bradley, public member
Ivan Clark, public member
Joe Want, public member
Dave Lorrington, public member
Laura Philips, National Park Service
Ryan Mollnow, USF&WS, National Wildlife Refuge system, Alaska
Mike Kramer, Fairbanks Advisory Committee (AC)
Lee Koyukuk, North Slope RAC
Jack Reakoff, Koyukuk AC & Western Interior RAC
Ray Collins, McGrath AC
Frank Entsminger, Upper Tanana Fortymile AC
Coke Wallace, Middle Nenana River AC
Jacob White, Delta AC
Frank Neumann, Anchorage AC
Israel Payton, Mat Valley AC
Doug Malone, Homer AC
Enoch Mitchell, Noatak/Kivalina AC & Northwest Interior Region RAC
Enoch (Atamuk) Shiedt, Kotzebue Sound AC

Staff and Public

Ted Spraker, Board of Game
Bruce Dale, Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation, ADF&G
Natalie Weber, Program Coordinator, ADF&G
Brad Wendling, ADF&G
Gino Del Frate, ADF&G

Tom Lohuis, ADF&G
Dave Battle, ADF&G
Sherry Wright, ADF&G
Kristy Tibbles, ADF&G
Tim Peltier, ADF&G
Lt. Paul Fussey, Alaska Wildlife Troopers
Cheryl Brooking, Department of Law
Suzanne Worker, Office of Subsistence Management
Brad Sparks
Thor Stacy, Alaska Professional Hunters Association
Nancy Bale
Frank Noska
Jeff Baker
Gray McCarthy
Skip Bourgeois
Dan Montgomery
Brett Westcott