

**Proposal 70**

**Proposal 70**  
Public proposal

**Effect of Proposal:**  
Expand the nanny penalty to all Units in Region 2 (Southcentral)

**Recommendation:**  
Neutral but opposes inclusion of hunts occurring in Unit 8 with a 2-goat bag limit

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**Proposal 70**

**Background**

- 5 AAC 85.040
  - Across Southcentral: 1-goat bag limit and the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited
  - Excepting RG480 (Unit 8): 2-goat bag limit, one of which must be a nanny and the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited

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Proposal 70

**Background**

- 5 AAC 85.040
  - Unit 6 : ‘...if a nanny is taken, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat in Unit 6 for 5 regulatory years’
  - Units 7 & 15: ‘...if a nanny is taken in, the hunter is prohibited from taking a goat on the Kenai Peninsula for 5 regulatory years’

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Proposal 70

**Background**

- **Unit 6:** 17 registration hunts with nanny penalty
  - Avg. harvest = **81 billies, 15 nannies**
- **Units 7 & 15:** 32 draw and reg. hunts with nanny penalty
  - Avg. harvest = **77 billies, 23 nannies**
- **Unit 8:** 7 draw and 10 registration hunts
  - Avg. harvest = **182 billies, 133 nannies**
- **Unit 14C:** 9 draw and 7 registration hunts
  - Avg. harvest = **17 billies, 8 nannies**

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**Proposal 70**

**Effect**

- Current regulations apply within units and areas
- The proposal as written would expand the range and scope of nanny penalties to all Southcentral (Region 2: Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15) for 5 regulatory years
  - For example:
    - A hunter harvesting a nanny in Unit 6 would be prohibited from taking a goat anywhere in Units 6, 7, 8, 14C, and 15 for 5 regulatory years

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**Proposal 70**

**Background**

- Nanny harvest greatly impacts mountain goat populations
- Nannies mature to have a kid at 4–5 years old, many nannies do not have a kid every year
- Native populations rarely have twins
- Lifespan of 11–12 years, reproductive up to 8 years, nannies produce 1–4 female young

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**Proposal 70**

**Background**

- Penalties seem to have an impact
  - 50% reduction in nanny harvest on Baranof Island RG150 after implementation through management plan
  - 5-year nanny penalty within Unit(s)
    - Unit 6
      - Before 20% (range 14–29%)
      - After 13% (range 7–26%)
    - Units 7 & 15
      - Before 33% (range 30–38%)
      - After 24% (range 12–42%)

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**Proposal 70**

**Background**

- RG480: 2-goat bag limit, one of which must be a nanny and the taking of nannies with kids is prohibited
- Non-native on Kodiak
- Notable expansions
- Limited access
- 2-goat bag-limit
- Managed for stability

**RG480 Mt Goat Registration Permit Hunt**

**AREA DESCRIPTION:** Unit 6, Southeast Kodiak and Zarem Bluff, south and west of a line from Golden Bay, north to Baranof Island to Kasaan, then westward along the coast to the north of Spring Pass to the westshore of Victory Gulch, then along Victory Gulch to the west shore of Golden Bay.

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**Proposal 70**

**Background**

- Unit 6C and 6D positive C&T finding
  - ANS 15–26 goats
  
- Unit 15C outside the NSA positive C&T finding
  - ANS of 7–10 goats
  
- Unit 8 negative C&T finding

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**Proposal 70**

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**Effect of Proposal:**  
Expand the nanny penalty to all GMUs in Region 2 (Southcentral)

**Recommendation:**  
Neutral but opposes inclusion of areas/hunts occurring in Unit 8 with a 2-goat bag limit

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**Proposal 73**

**Proposal 73**  
Public proposal

**Effect of Proposal:**  
Define the terms “permanent dwelling”, “publicly maintained trail/road”, and “developed recreational facility” for the purpose of bear baiting

**Recommendation:**  
Neutral

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**Proposal 73**

**Background**

- 5 AAC 92.044. Permit for hunting bear with the use of bait or a scent lure.
- ...
- (5) a person may not use bait or scent lures within
  - (A) one-quarter mile of a publicly maintained road, trail, or the Alaska Railroad;
  - (B) one mile of a
    - (i) house or other permanent dwelling, except that bait may be used within one mile of a cabin if the cabin is on the opposite side of a major river system, as identified by the department in the permit, from the bear baiting station;
      - (ii) business; or
      - (iii) school; or
    - (C) one mile of a developed campground or developed recreational facility;
- ...

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**Proposal 73**

**Effect**

- Dwelling
- AS 16.05.940(11) “domicile” means the true and permanent home of a person from which the person has no present intention of moving and to which the person intends to return whenever the person is away; domicile may be proved by presenting evidence acceptable to the boards of fisheries and game;
- The current language: “permanent dwelling”
  - Adjective “permanent” modifies “dwelling”
  - No reference to period of occupancy or intent to return to the structure
  - Includes seasonally occupied cabins
- Proposed language: “dwelling”
  - Removal of “permanent” and adoption of the proposed definition may serve to further limit bear baiting and present challenges for bear baiters who would now be in violation if, for example, a recreational tent was set up within one mile of a bait station

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**Proposal 73**

**Effect**

- Publicly maintained trail or road
- Current language:
  - Features have been created and maintained at various levels of jurisdiction including Borough, State, Federal, Native Corporation, and privately but available for public use
  - The Department does not catalog these features across jurisdictions, and many are subject to frequent changes due to variable conditions, irregular maintenance, seasonality, etc.
- Proposed language:
  - “A trail or road that is maintained with the use of public funding through an agency or private organization and meant for public use”

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**Proposal 73**

**Effect**

- Developed recreation facility
- Current language:
  - The DNR Administrative Code 11 AAC 12.990 defines “developed facility” as (11) "developed facility"
    - (A) includes a building, boat ramp, campground, picnic area, rest area, visitor information center, swim beach, trailhead, parking area, and developed ski area;
    - (B) does not include trails or latrines more than one quarter mile from a road;
- Proposed language:
  - Defining “developed recreation facility”: (A) includes a shooting range, developed boat ramp, campground, picnic area, rest area, visitor information center, swim beach, education center and developed ski area; (B) does not include trails or latrines more than one quarter mile from a road
  - The proposed definition removes “building” and includes “shooting range”

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**Proposal 73**

**Intent of Current Regulation**

- Separation of bear bait sites from other activities
- Prevent unanticipated nonhunting / bear interactions
- The Department does not have reliable high-resolution data on the placement of bait stations relative to structures, dwellings, and/or features listed in 5AAC 92.044(b)(5)
- Law enforcement discretion

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**Proposal 73**

**Background**

- Unit 6 positive C&T finding
  - ANS 80–120 black bears
  
- Unit 15C outside the NSA positive C&T finding
  - ANS of 20–60 black bears
  
- Negative C&T finding for brown bears

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**Proposal 73**

**Proposal 73**  
Public proposal

**Effect of Proposal:**  
Define the terms “permanent dwelling”, “publicly maintained trail/road”, and “developed recreational facility” for the purpose of bear baiting

**Recommendation:**  
Neutral

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**Proposal 74**

**Proposal 74**  
Public proposal

**Effect of Proposal:**  
Count a wounded brown bear against a hunter's bag limit for the regulatory year in which the animal is wounded

**Recommendation:**  
Neutral

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**Proposal 74**

**Background**

- 5 AAC 92.130. Restrictions to Bag Limit

(f) In Units 1 - 5 and Unit 8, a black or brown bear wounded by a person counts against that person's bag limit for the regulatory year in which the bear is taken. However, in Units 1 - 5 and Unit 8, a brown bear wounded by a person does not count against that person's one bear every four regulatory years bag limit established in 5 AAC 92.132

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**Proposal 74**

**Background**

- Unit 6 remainder, 7, 14C, and 15
  - 1 brown bear per regulatory year
  
- Unit 6D and 8
  - 1 brown bear every 4 regulatory years

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**Proposal 74**

**Background**

- RY20–24, 22 (n=986) brown bears were reported as wounded by hunters within Unit 8
  
- Reliant on self reporting
  
- The proposal does not address areas with variable regulatory year bag limits (i.e., one bear per regulatory year vs. one bear every four regulatory years) as described in 5 AAC 92.130 (f)

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**Proposal 74**

**Background**

- Negative C&T finding for brown bear in Units 6, 8, and 15C outside of the NSA

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**Proposal 74**

**Proposal 74**  
Public proposal

**Effect of Proposal:**  
Count a wounded brown bear against a hunter's bag limit for the regulatory year in which the animal is wounded

**Recommendation:**  
Neutral

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**Proposal 75**

**Proposal 75**  
Public proposal

**Effect of Proposal:**  
Require trappers in Units 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 14C, 15, and 20 to have successfully completed a basic trapper education course

**Recommendation:**  
Neutral

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**Proposal 75**

**Effect**

- Require trappers operating in Units 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 14C, 15, and 20, born after January 1, 1986, and are 18 years or older, to have successfully completed a basic trapper education course in person or on-line before trapping in the Unit areas listed above
- Trappers under 18 years of age must have either successfully completed the basic trapper education course in person or on-line, or be under the immediate supervision of a licensed trapper who: a) is 18 years of age or older and has successfully completed a basic trapper education course in person or on-line OR b) was born on or before January 1, 1986

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Proposal 75

**Background**

- No current State regulations
- Additional certifications for certain hunts and species and/or methods and means, for example:
  - Moose Hunter Orientation (Units 7 & 15)
  - Muzzleloader Education
  - Bear Baiting Clinic
  - Goat Hunter Orientation
  - Non-Resident Moose Hunter Orientation

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Proposal 74

**Background**

- There is a positive C&T finding for furbearers in Units 6, 8, and the remainder of Unit 15C outside of the NSA with amount reasonably necessary for subsistence of 90% of the harvestable surplus

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**Proposal 75**

**Proposal 75**  
Public proposal

**Effect of Proposal:**  
Require trappers in Units 6, 7, 8, 13, 14, 14C, 15, and 20 to have successfully completed a basic trapper education course

**Recommendation:**  
Neutral

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**Proposal 71** Sheep IM Threshold/statewide

Establish an average annual historic human harvest value for sheep to consider if sheep populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use.

**Department Proposal**

**Department Recommendation: Support**

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# Proposal 71

## Sheep IM Threshold/statewide

### Current Regulations

5 AAC 92.106. Intensive management of identified big game prey populations.

For purposes of implementing AS 16.05.255(e) - (g) the Board of Game will

(1) consider the following criteria when identifying big game prey populations that are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use:

(A) harvest size: the average annual historic human harvest meets or exceeds values as follows:

- (i) caribou: 100;
- (ii) deer: 500;
- (iii) moose: 100;
- (iv) sheep: XX [HARVEST SIZE TO BE DETERMINED];

### What this proposal would do

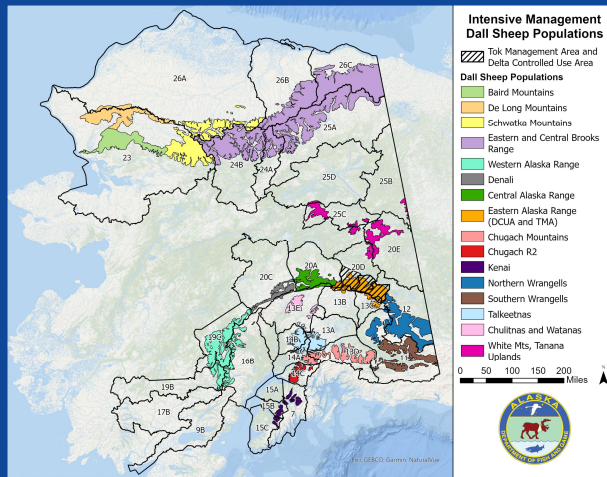
- Set IM harvest threshold for sheep based on the average annual historic human harvest.

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# Proposal 71

## Sheep IM Threshold/statewide



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# Proposal 71

## Sheep IM Threshold/statewide

Average annual harvest of sheep from identified populations 2005-2025, and relevant harvest threshold.

Threshold Level	Population	Historic Harvest
100	Eastern and Central Brooks Range	163
100	Northern Wrangells	124
75	Central Alaska Range	88
75	Western Alaska Range	88
50	Eastern Alaska Range (DCUA & TMA)	73
35	Talkeetnas	37
35	Chugach Mountains	36
30	Southern Wrangells	30
20	Region 2 Chugach Mountains (14C)	21
15	White Mts and Tanana Uplands	17
10	Baird Mountains	10
5	Kenai	9
5	De Long Mountains	9
5	Chulitna & Watana	6
3	Schwatka Mountains	3
0	Denali	0

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# Proposal 71

## Sheep IM Threshold/statewide

### Background

- Sheep populations are monitored through minimum counts of survey areas.
- Across the state each population is monitored at different scales, intensities and timeframes.
- Survey areas act as an index of population trend and the coverage of the area surveyed is highly variable.
- Statewide sheep surveys indicated a severe population decline between 2020-2023 likely related to consecutive deep snow winters.

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## Proposal 71

### Sheep IM Threshold/statewide

#### Background

- Sheep harvest is monitored primarily through harvest reports on harvest tickets and drawing permits. Some registration hunts do occur as well.
- Sealing is required for rams
- The full curl management approach used in most state hunts creates an eight-year delay in realizing gains or loss of lamb recruitment.

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## Proposal 71

### Sheep IM Threshold/statewide

#### Background

- Sheep harvest began to decline in 2020 due to the combination of poor lamb production in 2012-2014 and accelerated adult mortality, likely due to heavy, wet snowpack in winter 2019-2020.
- Harvest declines continued through 2023, again likely reflecting the additive effect of adverse winter conditions between 2020-2022 on poor lamb crops from 2012-2014

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## Proposal 71

### Sheep IM Threshold/statewide

#### Background

- IM focuses on habitat improvement and predation control.
- It is unknown if habitat improvement is possible for sheep.
- Predator control under IM for moose and caribou has been done on black bear, brown bear and wolves.
- Wolverine, coyote, and golden eagles, in addition to bears and wolves, are documented sheep predators
- Different sheep populations appear to have different significant predators, and predator effects on sheep vary across sheep populations and ranges
- Weather appears to be the major driver of sheep populations statewide.

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## Proposal 71

### Sheep IM Threshold/statewide

#### Summary

- Setting a statewide historic harvest threshold is the next step in the process of adding sheep as an IM species.
- After establishing a harvest threshold, the board must evaluate each population to determine a positive or negative IM finding.
- The department also has the authority to remove predators outside of established IM programs.

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**Proposal 71** **Sheep IM Threshold/statewide**

Establish an average annual historic human harvest value for sheep to consider if sheep populations are important for providing high levels of human consumptive use.

**Department Proposal**

**Department Recommendation: Support**

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**Proposal 72** **Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives-GMUs 7 & 15, and 14C**

Establish intensive management (IM) findings for sheep populations, and population and harvest objectives if applicable, in the Kenai Mountains (GMUs 7 & 15), and in the Western Chugach Mountains (GMU 14C)

**Department Proposal**

**Department Recommendation:**

Support proposal as part of IM process  
Neutral on GMUs 7 & 15, and 14C sheep populations having an IM finding

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**Proposal 72**      **Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives- GMUs 7 & 15, and 14C**

**Current Regulations**

5 AAC 92.108. Intensive management of identified big game prey populations.

<u>Population</u>	<u>Finding</u>	<u>Population Objective</u>	<u>Harvest Objective</u>
<b>Sheep</b>			
<b>GMUs 7 &amp; 15</b>	<b>XXXX</b>	<b>XXXX</b>	<b>XXXX</b>
<b>GMU 14C</b>	<b>XXXX</b>	<b>XXXX</b>	<b>XXXX</b>

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**Proposal 72**      **Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives- GMUs 7 & 15, and 14C**

**What this proposal would do**

Establish intensive management (IM) findings for sheep populations in the Kenai Mountains (GMUs 7 & 15), and in the Western Chugach Mountains (GMU 14C)

If IM findings for these areas are positive, the board would need to establish population and harvest objectives

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**Proposal 72**      **Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives- GMUs 7 & 15, and 14C**

**Background**

- Currently no sheep populations have an IM finding. This will be the first application of the harvest threshold to determine if either of these populations have a positive or negative IM finding
- If the Board adopts this proposal and harvest threshold is applied, it will then need to set population and/or harvest objectives

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**Proposal 72**      **Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives- GMUs 7 & 15, and 14C**

**Background**

- Determining a population objective will be challenging - we don't have a statistically robust method to count sheep like we do moose or caribou
- Sheep populations are monitored through minimum counts of survey areas. Geographic scales, intensities, and timeframes differ
- Minimum counts do not control for sheep that may be missed or other variables (e.g. snow remaining, cloud cover during survey, observer experience)

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**Proposal 72**      **Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives- GMUs 7 & 15, and 14C**

**Background**

- Survey areas capture only a portion of total sheep habitat
- Survey areas act as an index of population trend and the coverage of the area surveyed is highly variable
- Surveys often do not detect small changes between years
- Often referred to as 'trend counts'

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**Proposal 72**      **Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives- GMUs 7 & 15, and 14C**

**Background**

- Consider using some index of the population as an objective
  - Survey area minimum count as objective
  - Extrapolate survey unit count to larger geographic area
- Consider using harvest as an objective, or a harvest range

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**Proposal 72**      **Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives- GMUs 7 & 15, and 14C**

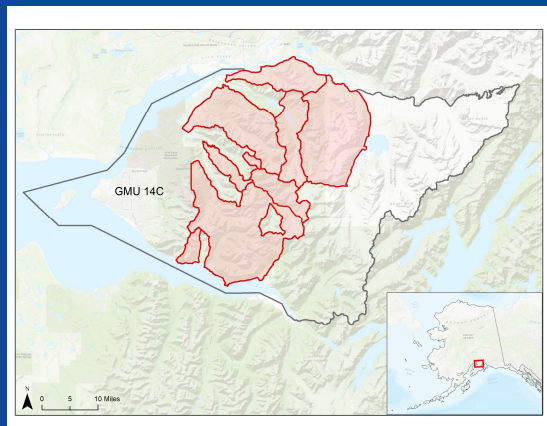
**Background**

- GMU 14C Chugach and 7 & 15 Kenai illustrate variability in survey coverage and frequency
- GMU 14C surveys attempted annually weather permitting, cover majority of sheep habitat in GMU
- GMUs 7 & 15 surveys subsample sheep ranges, each trend count area is attempted every 3 years weather permitting, covers a small fraction of total sheep habitat in GMUs

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**Proposal 72**      **Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives- GMUs 7 & 15, and 14C**

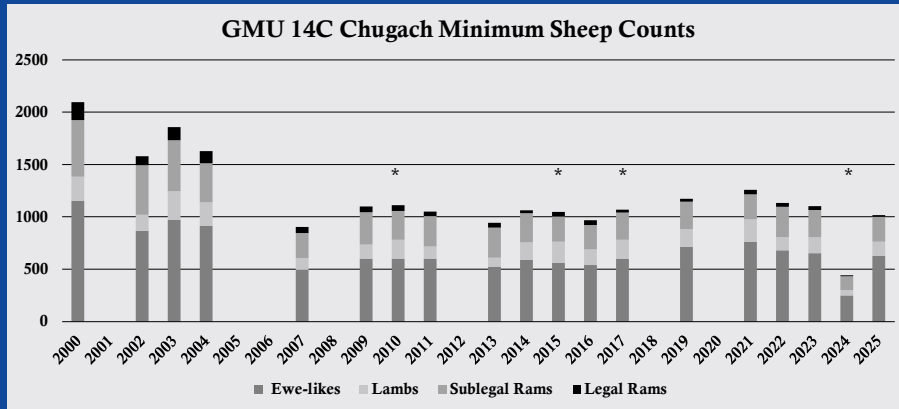


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Proposal 72

Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives- GMUs 7 & 15, and 14C

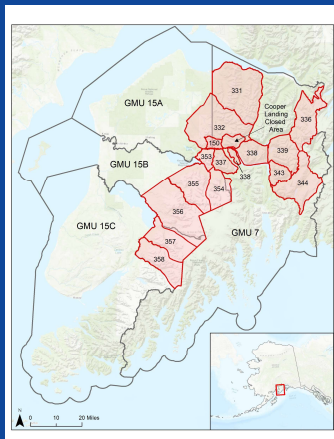


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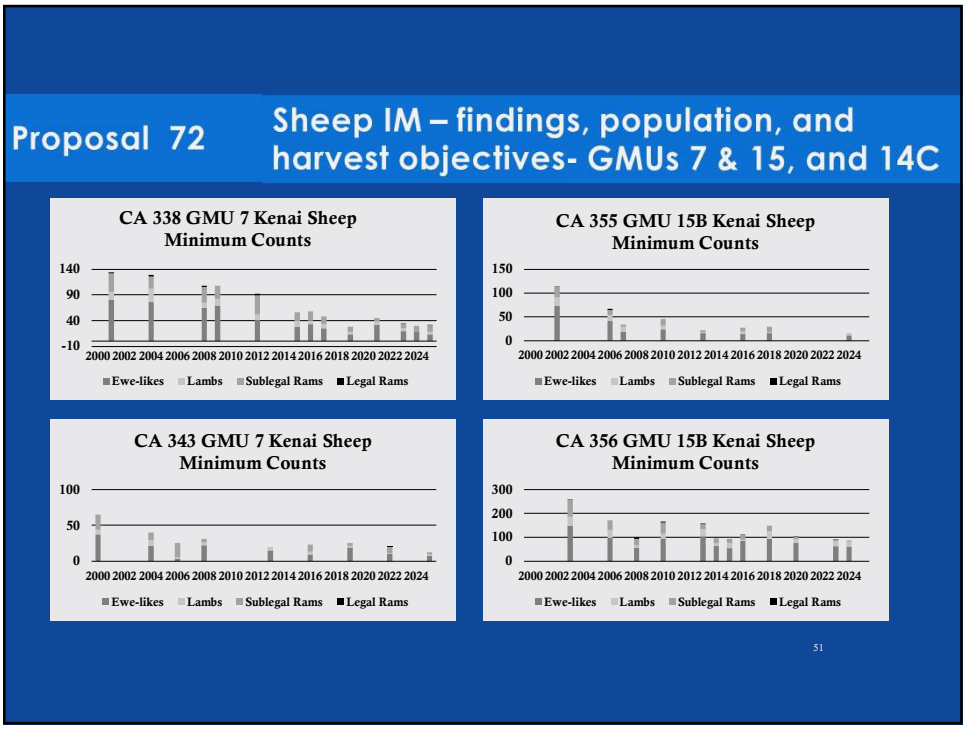
Proposal 72

Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives- GMUs 7 & 15, and 14C

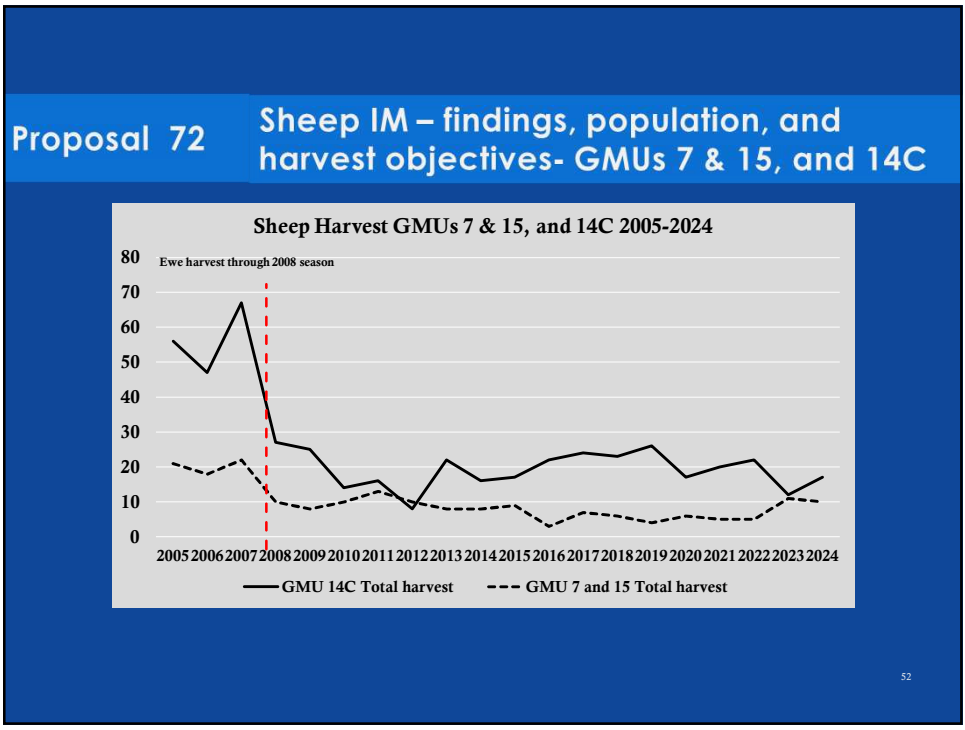


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**Proposal 72 Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives- GMUs 7 & 15, and 14C**

**Sheep Harvest Trends 2005-2024 – GMU 14C Chugach Mountains**

- Ewe harvest legal through the 2008 season via drawing permit
- Maximum average harvest over a 3-year period
  - Including ewe harvest, 2005-2007 = 57 sheep/year
  - Ram harvest only, 2005-2007 = 38 rams/year
  - After ewe harvest eliminated, 2017-2019 = 24 rams/year
- Average harvest 2005-2024
  - Including ewes, 2005-2024 = 25 sheep/year (range 8-67)
  - After ewe harvest eliminated, 2009-2024 = 19 rams/year (range 8-26)
  - 9-25 ewes harvested annually 2005-2008

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**Proposal 72 Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives- GMUs 7 & 15, and 14C**

**Sheep Harvest Trends 2005-2024 – GMU 7 & 15 Kenai Mountains**

- Ewe harvest legal through the 2008 season via drawing permit
- Maximum average harvest over a 3-year period
  - Including ewe harvest, 2005-2007 = 20 sheep/year
  - Ram harvest only, 2005-2007 = 19 rams/year
  - After ewe harvest eliminated, 2010-2012 = 11 rams/year
- Average harvest 2005-2024
  - Including ewes, 2005-2024 = 10 sheep/year (range 3-22)
  - After ewe harvest eliminated, 2009-2024 = 8 rams/year (range 3-13)
  - 0-3 ewes harvested annually 2005-2008

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<b>Proposal 72</b>	<b>Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives- GMUs 7 &amp; 15, and 14C</b>
<b><u>Summary</u></b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Survey coverage and frequency are variable across years and mountain ranges</li><li>• Minimum count surveys may prove of limited utility to establish population objectives</li><li>• Nonstandard techniques may be utilized to establish population or harvest objectives if this proposal is adopted</li></ul>	

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<b>Proposal 72</b>	<b>Sheep IM – findings, population, and harvest objectives-GMUs 7 &amp; 15, and 14C</b>
<p>Establish intensive management (IM) findings for sheep populations, and set population and harvest objectives if applicable, in the Kenai Mountains (GMUs 7 &amp; 15), and in the Western Chugach Mountains (GMU 14C).</p>	
<b>Department Proposal</b>	
<b>Department Recommendation:</b>	
<p><u>Support</u> proposal as part of IM process <u>Neutral</u> on GMUs 7 &amp; 15, and 14C sheep populations having an IM finding</p>	

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