



March 19, 2026
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Division of Wildlife Conservation
1255 West 8th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Commissioner and Staff:

The Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation (AK WSF) is a volunteer-driven nonprofit conservation corporation established in 2014 and chartered as a chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation. With more than 900 members throughout Alaska and across the United States, AK WSF works to enhance wild sheep populations, promote science-based wildlife management, educate the public about Dall sheep, and protect hunting and viewing opportunities for this iconic species. Alaska is home to roughly one quarter of North America's wild sheep, and AK WSF is committed to working collaboratively with wildlife managers to ensure healthy and sustainable populations across their historic range.

AK WSF appreciates the Department's ongoing efforts to study and respond to the decline in sheep populations across the state. Our organization strongly supports science-based management and recognizes the importance of evaluating all available tools for conserving wild sheep. However, after careful review and consultation, we respectfully urge caution in designating Dall sheep as an intensive management species under Alaska law.

As our review concluded, the statutory and regulatory framework surrounding intensive management is primarily designed to increase harvestable wildlife populations for human food consumption. Applying this framework to Dall sheep could create unintended policy consequences that may conflict with the long-standing approach for this species, including full curl management. In particular, such a designation could create pressure to manage sheep for maximum harvest rather than as a very regulated, big game species.

AK WSF respectfully encourages the Department and the Board of Game to continue pursuing alternative strategies to support sheep populations, including predator control, without formally designating sheep under the intensive management statute. We stand ready to work collaboratively with the Department on science-based solutions that address predation, habitat conditions, and other factors affecting sheep populations while preserving the management framework that has long sustained Alaska's world-class Dall sheep resource.

Sincerely,

President
Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation