

**PROPOSAL 37 – 5 AAC 92.008(5). Harvest guideline levels.** Limit nonresident sheep harvest to no more than ten percent of total harvest per subunit as follows:

Amend 92.008 by adding a new subsection to read:

**(5) Dall sheep: the annual harvest of Dall sheep by nonresident hunters shall be managed so that in any given three-year period the average annual harvest does not exceed 10 percent of the total sheep harvest for any individual subunit.**

All nonresident sheep hunts will be draw-only hunts with an allocation set subunit by subunit under 5 AAC 92.008 so that harvest levels do not exceed ten percent of the total sheep harvest per subunit based on using the last three years of historical harvest data.

This solution will benefit the sheep resource and all resident sheep hunters if adopted.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?**

**Unlimited nonresident sheep hunting opportunity and high nonresident sheep harvest rates.**

This proposal follows a decade of proposals from resident hunters asking the Alaska Board of Game (board) to limit nonresident sheep hunters. The nonresident harvest rates of 60-80 percent of our Dall sheep in some areas of the state and the problems associated with that level of nonresident mostly-guided competition are well known to the board. The board has continually stalled taking any action on resident hunter proposals to address these problems while publicly testifying in complete agreement that these problems exist and are harming resident hunters.

These problems don't occur in all areas of the state but the board has made it clear that any solutions must be statewide in nature and not through regional proposals that seek to deal with the problems on a subunit by subunit basis.

All along the board has said that the problem is not one of too many nonresident sheep hunters, most of whom must hire a guide, rather it was a problem of "too many guides," and thus the board only supports the guide-industry preferred solution to limit guides. This "Guide Concession Program" would be under the auspices of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and has already cost the state nearly a half-million dollars in planning and meetings, and finally as it made its way through the legislature with yet still a million-dollar fiscal note, it did not pass out of committee. It has not been revived and with our current budget situation it is a non-starter. The guide industry has been lobbying the legislature and our congressional delegation for one million dollars in federal funds to start up the Guide Concession Program, and we simply cannot believe that yet again guides are asking for a subsidy from not only Alaskan taxpayers, but now from every American citizen.

The Board of Game has claimed for nearly ten years that the Guide Concession Program is their preferred solution. Let's stop waiting for something that is so costly and unlikely to be implemented. In the face of known problems we ask again for the board to act to protect the resource and give resident sheep hunters the hunting priority our constitution demands.

**This Proposal is exactly what the Department of Natural Resources Recommended as an Alternative to the Guide Concession Program (GCP)**

From DNR Alternatives:

*“The second BOG [Board of Game] alternative to the GCP is for the board to establish a specific harvest level for non-resident hunters. The BOG would allocate a percentage of the harvestable surplus, such as 10%, to non-residents, potentially statewide and for all species, and the vehicle for this system would likely be drawing permits. This is different than the first alternative in that the allocation to non-residents would be fixed at a percentage of surplus rather than just reducing opportunity as needed.”*

**PROPOSED BY:** Resident Hunters of Alaska

(EG-F17-074)

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