

*Note: Proposal 190 was accepted by the Board of Game as an Agenda Change Request for consideration at the Statewide Regulations meeting scheduled for March 2025. The proposal refers to a letter from the Unit 19C Dall Sheep Working Group and a meeting summary which can be found online at: <https://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=gameboard.meetinginfo&date=10-17-2024&meeting=webconference>*

## **PROPOSAL 190**

### **5 AAC 85.055. Hunting seasons and bag limits for Dall sheep.**

Modify the resident and nonresident hunt structure for sheep in Unit 19C, and establish a guide concession pilot program as follows:

The Unit 19C Sheep Working Group requests a closure for 2025 to all general season hunts except the RS380 subsistence hunt.

In 2026/27 there will be a temporary draw hunt with a sunset clause after two years where 80% permits are allocated to residents and 20% to nonresidents, with a 5% cap for second degree kindred (2DK) nonresident hunters, coming out of the nonresident allocation. The 2DK hunt sponsor shall also notch harvest ticket for bag limit.

We request Unit 19C be used as the pilot program for the guide concession program, implemented by 2028.

In 2028, if the guide concession program for Unit 19C is in place, then residents and nonresidents will go to harvest ticket hunts.

**What is the issue you would like the board to address and why?** Declining sheep populations in Unit 19C.

We remain concerned primarily about the health of the sheep population in Unit 19C. Please refer to the charge statement of the working group, the results of the working group meeting in October 2024, and the letter submitted with the agenda change request.

This approach prioritizes the well-being of the species over the distribution of hunting opportunities. The primary goal is to balance the interests of conservation, local communities, and economic factors.

These adjustments are about managing the resource sustainably rather than just allocating hunting rights.

If the problem is not solved prior to the regular meeting cycle, the Unit 19C Sheep Working Group will not achieve our mandate. The board deferred all proposals for sheep hunting in Unit 19C out of cycle to allow the sheep working group to submit a proposal which is timely with the other proposals.

The closure was a temporary measure put in place, and we are now in a position to create future hunting opportunities for multiple users. The Unit 19C Sheep Working Group will not achieve

our mandate. In this time of uncertainty, we are trying to ensure the healthy sheep populations in Unit 19C.

**PROPOSED BY:** Unit 19C Sheep Working Group (HQ-F24-ACR5)

\*\*\*\*\*