



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Federal Subsistence Board News Release



Forest Service

For Immediate Release
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Under the authority of:

36 CFR §242.10 and .19
50 CFR §100.10 and .19

Public Meeting and Hearing Announced Regarding 2023 Unit 7 Federal Subsistence Sheep Harvest

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) will hold a public meeting and hearing to share information and solicit comments on the fall 2023 federal subsistence Dall sheep draw hunt in Unit 7. Following analysis, the USFS intends to close, under delegation of authority, the federal subsistence draw hunt for Dall sheep during fall 2023 in Unit 7.

The meeting and hearing will be held telephonically on **Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 6pm**. Opportunity will be provided for the public to share information, interact with state and federal managers, and offer testimony.

The public is encouraged to participate in this meeting by calling the telephone number below. When prompted, enter the conference ID.

Public Meeting/Hearing Information:
Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 6pm
Teleconference: +1(202)-650-0123
Conference ID: 392 999 231#

Fall 2023 Harvest Management

Closing harvest seasons involves considering a variety of biological factors and regulatory guidance. Aerial surveys conducted in 2018, 2019, and 2021 detected no legal full-curl rams, and 50 or fewer total animals in both the Round Mountain and Crescent Lake hunt areas. Although it is possible that undetected legal rams are currently present, the overall low population levels observed indicate a conservation concern. Federal management goals for the Kenai Peninsula sheep herd are to promote healthy, viable subpopulations that can support sustainable subsistence harvest for current and future generations.

Federal biologists have determined that to assure the continued viability of the Dall sheep population, it is necessary to close the Unit 7 federal subsistence draw Dall sheep hunt for the 2023 season. US Forest Service lands in the remainder of Unit 7 are open to Dall sheep hunting under state regulations with a state harvest ticket until the season closes. Alaska Department of Fish and Game has not allocated any state draw permits for the 2021, 2022, or 2023 seasons.

Sheep populations across the Kenai Peninsula have steadily declined since the mid-1990s. Factors driving this decline are unclear and are being evaluated by state and federal biologists. Aerial surveys are planned for the summer of 2023, and those data will be used to inform future management decisions.

For additional information, contact U.S. Forest Service Subsistence Program Manager Andrew Sanders at 907-424-4759 for more information.

Maps of Federal lands within GMU 7 are available at Forest Service offices.

Maps and additional information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be found on the web at www.doi.gov/subsistence or by visiting www.facebook.com/subsistencealaska.

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