

Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council

c/o Office of Subsistence Management
1011 East Tudor Road, MS 121
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-6199
Phone: (907) 786-3888, Fax: (907) 786-3898
Toll-Free: 1-800-478-1456

In Reply Refer To:
OSM.B25003

January 21, 2025

Mark Dowdle, Superintendent
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

Ben Bobowski, Superintendent
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

Brooke Merrell, Superintendent
Denali National Park and Preserve

Tim Hammond, Manager
Bureau of Land Management Eastern Interior Field Office

Jimmy Fox, Manager
Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge

Merben Cebrian, Manager
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Shawn Bayless, Manager
Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge

Ben Mulligan, Deputy Commissioner
Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Diloola Erickson, Director
Tanana Chiefs Conference Tribal Resource Stewardship Department

Fairbanks Advisory Committee
Middle Nenana River Advisory Committee
Minto/Nenana Advisory Committee
Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee
Eagle Advisory Committee
Delta Junction Advisory Committee
Tanana Rampart Manley Advisory Committee
Yukon Flats Advisory Committee

Dear Resource Management Agencies and Stakeholders,

I write to you on behalf of the Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council (Council) to express the Council's concerns for Dall sheep populations throughout the Eastern Interior Region and to request the formation of an Eastern Interior Dall Sheep Management Coalition.

The Council represents subsistence harvesters of fish and wildlife resources on Federal public lands and waters in the Eastern Interior Alaska Region. It was established by the authority in Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and is chartered under the Federal Advisory Committee Act. Section 805 of ANILCA and the Council's charter establishes the Council's authority to initiate, review and evaluate proposals for regulations, policies, management plans, and other matters related to subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region. The Council also reviews resource management actions occurring outside our region that may impact subsistence resources critical to communities served by the Council. The Council provides a forum for the expression of opinions and recommendations regarding any matter related to the subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within the region.

The Council held a public meeting on October 8-10, 2024, in Fairbanks. Among the items discussed were the on-going declines of Dall sheep throughout the region. The Council recommends that a coalition of managers and stakeholders be convened to develop strategies for long-term sustainable sheep management. For this coalition to be effective it will require collaboration between Federal and State management agencies and the involvement of various stakeholder groups. Coalition members should work toward the shared goal of rebuilding sheep populations by cooperating on research and monitoring and by reviewing and refining management and harvest strategies.

The process of forming the coalition will require an agency or agencies to step up and take the lead on organizing. The Council kindly requests a response to this letter by February 18, 2025, indicating your agency or organization's interest in establishing or participating in such a coalition. The Council suggests that the first step in building this coalition is to hold a meeting among agencies and other key stakeholders, including members of this Council and the State of Alaska Advisory Committees listed above, to develop a roadmap for moving forward. The Council thanks you for considering our concerns for Dall sheep and our request to form an Eastern Interior Dall Sheep Management Coalition. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss sheep management issues further and explore options for rebuilding our struggling sheep populations. If you have any questions or would like to follow up, please contact me through our Subsistence Council Coordinator, Brooke McDavid, at (907) 891-9181 or brooke_mcdavid@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,



Robert "Charlie" Wright, Sr.
Chair

cc: Federal Subsistence Board
Eastern Interior Alaska Subsistence Regional Advisory Council
Office of Subsistence Management
Interagency Staff Committee
Mark Burch, Assistant Director, Division of Wildlife Conservation, Alaska Department of
Fish and Game
Administrative Record