



July 11, 2019

Honourable Minister Pauline Frost
Minister of Environment, Government of Yukon
Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Y1A 2C6

To Minister Frost;

Re: Recommendation for Regulation Change for Sheep Hunting in Subzone 7-15

In 2015, the Yukon Government advanced a set of Yukon *Wildlife Act* regulation changes to the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board to place Game Management Subzones 7-13, 7-17, 7-20, 7-24, and 7-26 in Game Management Zone 7 East on permit for sheep hunting.

The Department presented the supporting data and information to the Board which demonstrated clear rationale for the proposed changes. This regulation change facilitated the creation of the Thinhorn Sheep Working Group and culminated in set of recommendations by the Board to recommend accepting the Department's original set of proposals. We understand that as of April 2019, the regulation change to put GMS 7-13, 7-17, 7-20, 7-24, and 7-26 on permit for sheep hunting had been approved through the Cabinet process, and we further understand that it will be implemented in the 2020-2021 hunting regulations.

Since the original regulation change proposal in 2015, through the Thinhorn Sheep Working Group, the Board has worked with Yukon Government to strengthen the public's understanding of the decision to place these subzones on permit for sheep hunting. Discussions around the impact these changes would have on harvest in other areas of the Yukon also took place within the Thinhorn Sheep Working Group.

The Working Group has also discussed the proposal to put other Game Management Subzone, not included in the original 2015 proposal, on permit. One of these subzones was 7-15, which would bring it in to conformity with the surrounding subzones This would also bring thinhorn sheep management in line with the modern management approach reflecting ecological values through "the Sheep Management Unit approach", as opposed to managing harvest based on historically outlined game management zones.

Given the context of our discussion on this matter, and after renewed discussion at the June 2019 Board Meeting with Department of Environment staff, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board recommends that:

- 1.1 The Yukon Government to go forward with the regulation change to open Game Management Subzone 7-15 on permit for sheep hunting, with an upper limit of 25 permits, and provide for Ministerial discretion to adjust permit numbers.**
- 1.2 The Board further recommends that given all the historical discussions and engagements on this matter that the proposal should does not require additional public review at this time.**

The Board understands that Yukon Government will move forward with Government to Government consultations on the matter with the Kwanlin Dün and Champagne Aishihik First Nations prior to implementing this regulation change.

Thank you for your consideration of this regulatory change and should the department wish to introduce this change to our 2019-2020 regulation change package as an administrative change the Board would also be supportive of that approach.

Sincerely,



John Burdek, Chair