

**YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE
MANAGEMENT BOARD**



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February 24, 2020

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

Re: Dall Sheep Permit Hunt Assignment GMZ 7 East

Dear Minister Frost,

On December 15, 2017, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board advanced the following recommendations to the Department.

Recommendations:

- **That the Minister should place the remaining Game Management Subzones (7-13, 7-17, 7-20, 7-24, and 7-26) in Game Management Zone 'seven east' on permit for Dall's sheep as per the regulation change proposed in 2015-2016.**
- **That following appropriate consultation with affected parties (including the First Nations, RRCs, and the outfitter of the area), the Minister should revoke the 1993 Commissioner's agreement regarding special conditions placed upon the outfitter for Game Management Subzones 7-23 and 7-25 in Outfitting Area 17.**
- **That the Minister advance a regulation change to open Game Management Subzone 7-15 for limited entry harvest opportunities.**
- **That the Minister, in partnership with the Board and Department Staff, should redistribute Permit Hunt Authorizations throughout Game Management Zone seven east to accurately reflect the most recent population data, and this redistribution should include creating opportunities in game management subzone 7-19.**

In addition to these recommendations, the Board also conveyed that the Thinhorn Sheep Working Group should continue to work together and address the broader issues affecting the future of wild thinhorn sheep management including (but not necessarily limited to):


1. Access/ATV – hunters and non-hunters
 - a. Explore the ability to use permit conditions to restrict ORV use
2. Harvest pressures/distributions to other Game Management Zones
3. Public Education and awareness
4. Dall sheep hunting ethics
5. Outfitter Quotas for Dall Sheep
6. Regional vs Territorial approaches to Thinhorn sheep management/harvest and
7. Communications with First Nation harvesters

During our February 2020 Board meeting, the results of the Board's recommendations were presented, and the Board was requested to write a letter of support for the Department's approach. It was identified that timing is of the essence, as communication on this regulation change should begin immediately.

The Board is supportive of this implementation of our initial recommendation. We hope that within the communication initiatives for this regulation change, it is made clear to Yukoners that this is not an increase in opportunity but rather a conservation-oriented proposal that will re-distribute permits in specific subzones, to ensure a balanced approach.

We appreciate the presentation provided by the Fish and Wildlife Branch regarding the implementation strategy for our initial recommendation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Executive Director, Graham Van Tighem, at (867)-667-5835.

Sincerely,



John Burdek, Chair