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March 10, 2022

Honourable Minister Nils Clarke
Minister of Environment,
Government of Yukon
Box 2703 Whitehorse,
Yukon Y1A 2C6

Attention Minister Clarke;

Re: Dall Sheep Adaptive Management Game Management Zone 7 East.

In 2020, the Government of Yukon (YG) placed five previously opened Game Management Subzones (GMS) under Permit Hunt Authorization (PHA). This change increased the number of Game Management Zone (GMZ) 7 East permits from 97 to 142. YG also changed the distribution unit of permit hunts from GMS to Sheep Management Units (SMU), which were developed as a result of the 2015-2016 surveys.

At our February 2022 Board meeting, the Board reviewed a presentation by YG Sheep and Goat Biologist and considered new information provided, which recommended returning the unit of distribution for Dall Sheep PHAs in GMZ 7 east from SMUs to GMS. This presentation provided harvest data and hunter surveys results that were very compelling.

In addition to this information, the Board considered the original regulation change review from 2016 and our original set of recommendations presented to Minister Frost on December 15th, 2017.

Recommendations (from 2017):

- 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. 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.

- The Minister advance a regulation change to open Game Management Subzone 7-15 for limited entry harvest opportunities.
- In partnership with the Board and Department Staff, the Minister should redistribute Permit Hunt Authorizations throughout Game Management Zone seven east to accurately reflect the most recent population data, and this re-distribution should include creating opportunities in Game Management Subzone 7-19.

Based on the information above:

1.1 The Board formally recommends the Minister return the distribution unit of PHA for Dall Sheep within GMZ 7 East from SMUs to GMS consistent with the proposed harvest allocation formula provided to the Board at our February 2022 Board meeting.

1.2 The Board also recommends that no further public review is required for this change. The move from allocating PHA's from GMS to SMUs was not publicly consulted during our 2015-16 regulatory cycle, and this approach better achieves Conservation for thinhorn sheep in GMZ 7 East.

We appreciate your staff's hard work and dedication, and attention to this matter and feel that this is the best course of action for the interest of Conservation, public safety and hunter satisfaction.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact our Executive Director Graham Van Tighem at 667-5835 if you have any questions or require clarification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'CS', with a small horizontal line extending to the right.

Carl Sidney, Chair

cc: Marc Catett, Director Fish and Wildlife