

# Federal Wildlife Proposal

## Proponent:

Eastern Interior Alaska Regional Advisory Council

## Issue:

Extend the current (2024 and 2025 season) closure of sheep hunting by all users in portions of Units 25C and 20E through the 2026 and 2027 hunting seasons. This closure, enacted by Wildlife Special Action WSA24-01, should continue to apply to sheep hunting on Federal public lands in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and on Bureau of Land Management lands in the North Peak Mountain area within the Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area.

## Existing Federal Regulation:

**Note:** These are the regulations for the 2024/25 and 2025/26 regulatory years, enacted by Wildlife Special Action WSA24-01. These closures are not in codified Federal regulation.

### Unit 20— Sheep

*Unit 20E—I ram with full-curl horn or larger.*

*Aug. 10–Sep. 20.*

*Federal public lands within Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and in the North Peak Mountain area within the Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area (CUA), are closed to sheep hunting by all users for the 2024 and 2025 regulatory years.*

### Unit 25— Sheep

*Units 25B, 25C remainder, and 25D—I ram with full-curl horn or larger*

*Aug. 10–Sep. 20.*

*Unit 25C, within Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve*

*No open season*

*Federal public lands are closed to sheep hunting by all users for the 2024 and 2025 regulatory years.*

## **Proposed Federal Regulation:**

### **Unit 20– Sheep**

*Unit 20E—1 ram with full-curl horn or larger*

*Aug. 10–Sep. 20.*

***Federal public lands within Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and in the North Peak Mountain area within the Glacier Mountain Controlled Use Area (CUA), are closed to sheep hunting by all users for the 2026 and 2027 regulatory years.***

### **Unit 25– Sheep**

*Units 25B, 25C remainder, and 25D—1 ram with full-curl horn or larger*

*Aug. 10–Sep. 20.*

***Unit 25C, within Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve***

***No open season***

***Federal public lands are closed to sheep hunting by all users for the 2026 and 2027 regulatory years.***

## **Why Should this regulation be changed?**

The Board approved Wildlife Special Action request WSA24-01 to close sheep hunting in these areas for the 2024 and 2025 regulatory years due to significant declines to the sheep population and extreme conservation concerns. The intent of the original closure was to give time for sheep populations to rebuild. Not enough time has passed for this to occur and therefore the Council wants to extend the closure for another two years. It is the hope of the Council that during this closure extension, the population will show signs of recovery. Surveys will be necessary to monitor the population status before the next regulatory cycle.