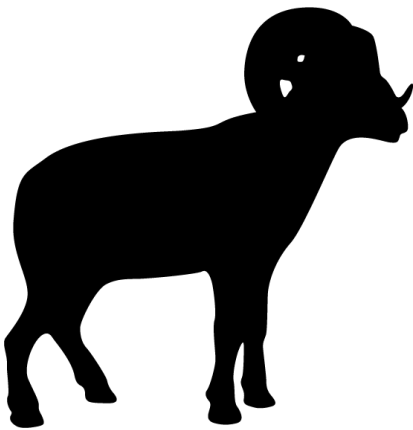


Hunting change for 2024-25

Sheep hunting closure in Game Management Subzone 5-17



Game Management Subzone 5-17 (the Donjek Sheep Management Unit) is closed to sheep hunting starting August 1, 2024, until October 31, 2026. Licensed hunters are prohibited from harvesting sheep in this area during the closure period.

Why is there a closure?

- Aerial surveys of sheep populations in the southwest Yukon in 2022 and 2023 showed population declines of sheep in several Sheep Management Units.
- Game Management Subzone 5-17, (the Donjek Sheep Management Unit), showed the most concerning declines. The non-lamb count dropped 63% compared to a 2015 survey. Only 30 sheep were counted in the Donjek area in 2023.
- The Government of Yukon follows the Science-based guidelines for management of Thinhorn sheep in the Yukon to make harvest management decisions for sheep. The guidelines state, “there should be no harvest of populations that are very small or believed to be in serious decline.”

What do the survey results show?

- In 2022, biologists surveyed the non-lamb count for three Sheep Management Units: Brooks Arm, Ruby Range and Killermun.
- The 2022 survey found declines ranging from 24% to 37% in these areas compared to 2015.
- In 2023, biologists surveyed the non-lamb count in five Sheep Management Units: Brooks Arm, Ruby Range, Donjek, Nutzotin and Flat Top.
- The 2023 survey showed declines ranging from 16% to 63% compared to 2015 and 2016 surveys, with the most concerning declines in the Donjek area.
- You can view the survey results at: yukon.ca/thinhorn-sheep.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit [Yukon.ca/hunting-regulations](https://yukon.ca/hunting-regulations) or contact fish.wildlife@yukon.ca



How was the decision made?

- Based on the survey results from 2022 and 2023, the Government of Yukon initiated consultation and engagement on whether to amend the *Wildlife Regulation* to allow adaptive management in five Sheep Management Units: Brooks Arm, Ruby Range, Donjek, Nutzotin and Flat Top.
- The Government of Yukon consulted wildlife co-managers, which include First Nations governments, Renewable Resources Councils, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board on this option.
- The government also welcomed feedback from stakeholders including, affected outfitters, the Yukon Outfitters Association, the Yukon Fish and Game Association, the Yukon Wild Sheep Foundation, the Yukon Conservation Society, Wildlife Conservation Society Canada – Yukon Chapter.
- Through this process, the government heard more discussion is needed on long-term options for sheep management in southwest Yukon.
- As a result of this effort and with recommendations from wildlife co-managers, the government initiated a closure in Game Management Subzone 5-17 (the Donjek Sheep Management Unit) in the short term and will continue to collaborate with wildlife co-managers on longer-term sheep management planning in the southwest Yukon.

Are there any other closures for 2024-25?

- There are no other closures for sheep hunting in southwest Yukon ahead of the 2024-25 hunting season.
- The Government of Yukon is continuing to work with wildlife co-managers on longer-term management options for sheep in the southwest Yukon.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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