



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Bureau of Land Management  
National Park Service  
Bureau of Indian Affairs

## Federal Subsistence Board News Release



Forest Service

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Federal Subsistence Board closes the sheep season on Federal Public Lands in Unit 23 and Unit 26A, that portion west of Howard Pass and the Etivluk River**

The Federal Subsistence Board has closed Federal public lands in Unit 23 and Unit 26A, that portion west of Howard Pass and the Etivluk River, to the hunting of sheep from August 10, 2014 to April 30, 2015.

Recent surveys, conducted in July 2014, by the National Park Service in coordination with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), indicate a population decline between 50-75 percent from previous surveys in 2011 in the affected area(s). Additionally, a low number of legal rams, coupled with low recruitment rates, suggest that any harvest could be detrimental to the population. Failure to close the affected area(s) could prolong or worsen the current decline and significantly hamper recovery. As a result, Federal public lands in Unit 23 and Unit 26A, that portion west of Howard Pass and the Etivluk River, are closed for the 2014-2015 regulatory season. This action is consistent with recent closures to hunting taken by ADF&G in the same area under State regulations.

For more information on this action, contact Chris McKee (907) 786-3572 or (800) 478-1456 paul\_mckee@fws.gov. Information on the Federal Subsistence Management Program can be found at <http://www.doi.gov/subsistence/index.cfm>.

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