

Fish and Game

Marks 268

Sheep in Study

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has captured and marked 268 sheep as part of a movement study in the Dry Creek area of the Alaska Range. Included in this group of sheep were 114 rams.

These sheep were all marked with yellow, plastic ear tags, and some were also marked with numbered collars. Collars are of two types, a simple rope with a numbered pendant and a broad plastic collar of red material.

Although some hunters prefer not to shoot a legal ram that has been touched by human hands, marked or collared Dall sheep can legally be hunted. The same hunting regulations apply to both marked and unmarked sheep.

Hunters who prefer not to shoot marked sheep should examine their trophies carefully with a spotting scope before firing. Often a marked ram has lost his collar and is sporting only small ear tags that can be hard to see at a distance.

If hunters decide to shoot tagged rams the Department of Fish and Game would like to have the exact location and the ear tag turned in to the Fish and Game building at 1300 College Road.

This may be the only information available on a tagged ram. Any hunter in the area will see collared ewe sheep also.

If positive identification and location can be made of either male or female collared sheep the Department of Fish and Game would appreciate the hunter reporting this information to them.

The sheep study area, Dry Creek, the West Fork of the Little Delta, and the Wood River, is a heavily hunted area. Biologists of the Fish and Game Department estimate that legal rams make up only 3 per cent of the herd.

A recent survey indicates that an unguided hunter who is unfamiliar with the area and not an expert on sheep habits may have to walk 15 miles for each legal ram he sees.

However, it is possible that even the most inexperienced hunter might experience "beginner's luck" in the area.