

Upper Tanana Fortymile Fish & Game Advisory Committee

Interior Region Fish & Game Advisory Committees

Leif Wilson
Chairperson
P.O. Box 707
Tok, AK 99780
leifwilson@yahoo.com

Central	Middle Nenana River
Delta	Middle Yukon River
Eagle	Minto-Nenana
Fairbanks	Ruby
GASH	Stony Holitna
Koyukuk River	Tanana-Rampart-Manley
Lake Minchumina	Upper Tanana Fortymile
McGrath	Yukon Flats

1/13/2026

Dear Commissioner Doug Vincent-Lang

The Upper Tanana 40 Mile F&G AC doesn't think it's a good idea to be issuing Tok Management Area (TMA) governor tags given the current all time low sheep numbers. Since 2022, following several bad winters in a row, only 10 draw tags have been issued for the TMA. Sheep numbers observed during the last (July 2025) TMA sheep survey were the lowest on record, with low ram numbers and extremely low numbers of legal rams.

The UTF AC worked with the local F&G staff to develop a matrix that is used to decide how many TMA permits will be issued each year, using the last 3-years of survey data. Those tag numbers are supposed to range from 60 to 120, but because of the extremely low sheep numbers, we are not even within the side-boards of the matrix at this time. We feel the department should wait until sheep numbers come up enough to fall within the side-boards of the matrix before considering issuing a governors tag again.

The TMA is the only area in the state of Alaska that is specifically managed for trophy sheep hunting. Hunters who bid on a raffle permit for the governors tag, or draw one of the coveted TMA draw permits, have a high expectation for an above average sheep hunting experience and the opportunity to harvest an above average (trophy) ram. With ram numbers this low, they will be lucky to find a legal ram much less a 40" plus ram. Current surveys indicate they could hunt parts of the area for 10-days and not even see a ram let alone a legal one. I know this is hard to believe, but this years F&G survey found large areas of the TMA devoid of rams.

The Alaska Outdoor Council was awarded the Tok Management Area tag for 2026. They have already raffled off the current TMA governor tag. Before auctioning the tag themselves the Alaska Outdoor Council had offered it to National Wild Sheep Foundation for their annual convention auction, but they refused the tag because of current low sheep numbers. They didn't think it was wise to be promoting it with such low sheep numbers. This is a good indication that the TMA governor's tag is not currently meeting the expectations of the sheep hunters that are purchasing it, and therefore not meeting the states goal of promoting sheep hunting in Alaska.

The department stands to get a serious real black eye if a decent ram can't be harvested. We believe the Alaska Department of Fish & Game should be more concerned about helping the TMA sheep population and less concern for issuing tags that large organizations like the Wild Sheep Foundation are not even supportive of.

Thank you for your consideration of our thoughts.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L Wilson', written in a cursive style.

Leif Wilson

Chair, Upper Tanana 40 Mile AC