Sheep Mountain Mule Deer Objective Review
What is an objective?

- The herd unit objective is a population goal we manage towards. It is based on the species carrying capacity, along with landowner and sportsmen’s input.

- One major factor in season structure proposals is based on where the population is in relation to the objective.

- Changes in the objective could mean increasing hunter opportunity to decrease the population or limiting hunter opportunity to increase the population.

- Objectives need to be biologically achievable within 5 years.
1. Post season population objective with a herd estimate using spreadsheet models or density estimates (e.g. sightability study)-Preferred Method, Objective ±20%
2. Mid-winter population objective with a herd estimate based on trend counts using key winter ranges as an index.
3. Landowner/sportsmen satisfaction objectives- e.g. Elk Area 3 and Pronghorn Area 111
Secondary Objective

These would be in conjunction with one of the 3 alternatives

1) Habitat indices- include utilization standards- (hard to measure grass use in areas where wildlife and livestock mingle)

2) Male “quality”- include buck:doe ratios, antler class data from harvest field checks or age class data from harvest field checks- (depends on the quality of data collected)

3) Harvest Statistics- Hunter Success, Effort target ranges
The current population objective for Sheep Mountain Mule Deer is (15,000) 12,000 – 18,000. We estimate the current population to be 6,000.
Fawns Per 100 Does In The Sheep Mountain Herd Unit (2004-2014)

Fawn Ratio

Log. (Fawn Ratio)
Bucks per 100 Does In The Sheep Mountain Herd Unit (2003-2014)
## Buck quality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class I</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class II</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class III</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Class I – outside main-frame maximum spread $\leq$ 19 inches
Class II – outside main-frame maximum spread between 20 – 25 inches
Class III – outside main-frame maximum spread $\geq$ 26 inches
Any Questions?