

SHEEP MANAGEMENT IN KLUANE NATIONAL PARK,
YUKON TERRITORY

By
J. M. Christiansen
Kluane National Park
Yukon, Canada

Kluane National Park is situated in the southwest part of the Yukon Territory and covers 8500 square miles. Of this area, approximately 70 percent is comprised of glaciers and permanent snowfields.

In March of 1973 an aerial distribution survey was made over the area for all ungulates, with sheep distribution being considered most important.

This census showed sheep were present throughout the ice-free areas, with main populations being more concentrated along the northern boundary of the park.

In January 1974 a classified count of Dall sheep was made by air. The classification was not a total success, but the census did show that we were wintering 1500 sheep.

We have 150 hours of helicopter time allotted for this year to further our knowledge of the movements and number of ungulates within the boundaries of the park. This project is being set up to census at three seasons of the year.

At completion of this project we should have a good idea of population numbers and classification.

At this time the Dall sheep population appears to be healthy. It also appears that the wolf plays a very important role in the Dall sheep population as a control.