

SHEEP

Concern

Sheep at Kirkland Pass are vulnerable.

A small population of sheep at Kirkland Pass is often down low in the canyon and there is a concern that people travelling in the area by snowmobile in the winter — primarily hunting bison — may disturb the animals. The area the sheep use should be identified as a sensitive habitat.

Solution Identify the sheep range and manage the area to minimize disturbance.

The range of this sheep population needs to be mapped to better understand where disturbances may occur. Once mapped, this area may be identified as a sensitive habitat, warranting special measures to minimize disturbance to the sheep. The Yukon Wood Bison Technical Team has acknowledged the need to map winter snowmobile trails to better understand and manage access related to the annual bison harvest.

Commitment

By who? By when?

YTG, LSCFN
2004

Map the extent of sheep range at Kirkland Pass. [65]

YTG has some information about the range of this sheep population. This information needs to be reviewed and updated on maps. The LSCFN will assist with mapping in the field.

CRRC, LSCFN
2004

Highlight in the bison plan the importance of this area for the sheep population. [66]

The CRRC and LSCFN will recommend to the YWBTT that this area be given special consideration when managing the bison harvest access because of its importance for sheep.

YTG, LSCFN, CRRC
2005, 2006

Map preferred access to avoid this area (particularly for bison hunters). [67]

Through the winters of 2005 and 2006, the YTG Conservation Officer will be using GPS to map trail networks associated with bison harvest activity. Ultimately, this work will produce a map for bison hunters of preferred access routes. This will help to divert snowmobile traffic away from areas of sensitive habitat, such as Kirkland Pass. The outcome of this work will be shared with the CRRC.

Winston Billy, Game Guardian

