

NOTE: THE FOLLOWING ABSTRACT IS INCLUDED FOR THE SAKE OF COMPLETENESS IN THIS CAPTURE AND HANDLING SECTION. THE PAPER CAN BE FOUND IN THE SEVENTH BIENNIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE NORTHERN WILD SHEEP AND GOAT COUNCIL, PAGES 171-175.

COMPARISON OF HELICOPTER-SUPPORTED CHEMICAL IMMOBILIZATION AND SKID-MOUNTED PROJECTILE NET CAPTURE OF DALL SHEEP IN ALASKA

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Abstract: Helicopter-supported darting to capture Dall sheep in Alaska has frequently failed. Because of serious wounding by drug deliver systems, unstandardized drug doses, long induction times in hazardous terrain, and stressful chases, reported mortalities associated with Dall sheep capture in Alaska have averaged 22%. Physical capture through use of projectile nets appears more promising. We experimented with a skid-mounted projectile net for capture of Dall sheep, and found it to have advantages over helicopter-supported chemical immobilization. Fiscal costs appear to be somewhat lower, and benefits to sheep considerably greater. We think this system also has human safety advantages compared with shoulder fired projectile nets.

NOTE: THIS ABSTRACT HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE CAPTURE SESSION FOR THE SAKE OF COMPLETENESS. THE PAPER CAN BE FOUND IN THE SECOND BIENNIAL NORTHERN WILD SHEEP AND GOAT COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS, PAGES 601-614.

A COMPARISON OF ROCKET NETTING WITH OTHER METHODS OF CAPTURING DALL SHEEP

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Abstract: Rocket netting was the most efficient method we tested for capturing wild Dall sheep (*Ovis dalli*) at a natural mineral lick in Interior Alaska. Other methods included drop netting, cannon netting, snaring, and chemical immobilization. Age comparisons of sheep caught in rocket and drop nets suggested mature wild sheep avoid drop net traps for up to two years. Younger sheep, lifetime-habituated to the drop net, which presents a formidable visual barrier, were equally susceptible to capture by drop net or rocket net. This may indicate habituation to foreign objects by Dall sheep is a long-term process.
