# Comprehensive Data Delivery README FILE

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| **Study Section** | Study 10.7: Dall’s Sheep Distribution and Abundance |
| **Study Component** | (not applicable) |
| **Prepared By** | ABR, Inc.—Environmental Research & Services |
| **Data Collection and Processing By** | Kim King Jones, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Palmer;Alex Prichard, ABR, Inc.—Environmental Research & Services, Fairbanks |
| **Field Date Range** | May 28–29, June 19–20, July 11–30, 2013May 28–29, June 18–19, 2014July 31–August 2, 2015 |

**Introduction:** The overall goal of this data collection effort was to characterize the distribution, abundance, and use of mineral licks by Dall’s sheep in areas with the potential to be affected by construction and operation of the proposed Susitna–Watana Hydroelectric Project (Project) in Alaska.

The Dall’s Sheep Distribution and Abundance Study (Dall’s Sheep Study) focused on aerial surveys of Dall’s sheep (conducted by Alaska Department of Fish and Game [ADF&G]) and site visits to two mineral licks (conducted by ABR Inc. [ABR]) used by Dall’s sheep (*Ovis dalli*). The study area consists of that portion of Game Management Unit (GMU) Subunit 13E located east of the Parks Highway and south of the Denali Highway, encompassing the proposed Project facilities, potential access and transmission line corridors, and reservoir inundation zone. All suitable Dall’s sheep habitat within the study area was surveyed by airplane and the mineral licks at Jay Creek and Watana Creek were visited on the ground. Aerial surveys of sheep habitat in the study area were conducted during July 11–30, 2013 and July 31–August 2, 2015. Two site visits to the Jay Creek and Watana Creek mineral licks were conducted in late May and mid-June in 2013 (May 28–29 and June 19–20) and 2014 (May 28–29 and June 18–19). A time-lapse camera was deployed at the Jay Creek mineral lick between site visits during both years.

This multi-year study was initiated in 2013 and completed in 2015. The Study Completion Report (SCR) for the study was produced in 2015.

**Data Summary:** Data for the Dall’s Sheep Study consist of GIS data layers, and data and photos from a time-lapse camera. All field data for the study were collected with paper forms or photos. Dall’s sheep locations collected during aerial surveys conducted by ADF&G are confidential under Alaska state statute and regulations; therefore, polygons of estimated Dall’s sheep density are presented rather than specific animal locations. Data and photos from the time-lapse camera at the Jay Creek mineral lick also is confidential. All data for the study have undergone a QC3 level of review.

*GIS Data*— Contain files for the 1980s survey area for Dall’s sheep, the 2013–2015 study area and aerial survey areas, the area that was not surveyed in 2015, and relative densities of Dall’s sheep observed during aerial surveys conducted in 2013 and 2015.

**Data Organization:**

The public GIS data are archived in the GIS subfolder /10-WILD/10.07-DALL/GIS, which contains one geodatabase (SuWa\_10\_7\_GIS\_20170630.gdb) with the feature classes:

* DALL\_1980s\_SurveyArea
* DALL\_2013\_2015\_AerialSurvArea
* DALL\_2013\_2015\_StudyArea
* DALL\_2013\_RelativeDensity
* DALL\_2015\_RelativeDensity
* DALL\_2015\_Unsurv\_for\_RelDens

**Online Data Link:** <http://gis.suhydro.org/SuWa/10-WILD/10.7-DALL/>

**Online Report Link:** 10.07 Dall’s Sheep Distribution and Abundance – Study Completion Report under 2017; Study Completion and Implementation Reports at <http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/type/documents>

[[1]](#endnote-1)

1. **Data Distributor Contact Information:**

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