



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Fraser River bighorn sheep health assessment receives financial boost
Funding grant committed to vital project

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Since 1992, the Fraser River bighorn sheep herds have been suffering major declines in health and in population. As a leading conservation based organization with a membership base determined to help, the Wild Sheep Society of BC (WSSBC) began a project in 2018 designed to understand the prevalence of *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (Movi) in Fraser River bighorn sheep herds.

The Cabela's Canada Outdoor Fund has generously contributed \$5000 towards this ongoing initiative. The Outdoor Fund supports organizations through generous support of Cabela's Canada customers who round up to the nearest dollar at checkout in their retail stores, through the call centre and online at cabelas.ca.

"As stakeholders in this province, we realize that partnerships are critical to its success. We are incredibly thankful to have the support of the Cabela's Canada Outdoor Fund to further support this study" said Kyle Stelter, WSSBC President. "We look forward to seeing this project continue."

This project is focused on bighorn herds on both west and east sides of the Fraser River corridor in Region 3, with plans to expand the study area into herds as far north as the Junction sheep range in Region 5. Research has identified *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (Movi) as the infection that triggers bighorn sheep pneumonia outbreaks which may kill up to 80% of the herd in the initial outbreak alone.

To find out more about *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (Movi) or this project, visit our website at www.wildsheepsociety.com

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About the Wild Sheep Society of BC

The Wild Sheep Society of BC is a non-profit registered Society dedicated to the protection and enhancement of wild sheep and wild sheep habitat throughout "Beautiful British Columbia". Putting tens of thousands of volunteer hours and dollars into conservation projects in BC since 1998, the WSSBC is committed to its vision statement of 'Putting more sheep on the mountains'.

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