



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Pandemic continues to ravage British Columbia sheep herds

Wild Sheep Society sends out SOS

Victoria BC- August 17, 2020

For too long, we have watched a pandemic called *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (M.ovi) destroy bighorn sheep herds in British Columbia. Unlike COVID-19, this one has an easy solution, yet for decades, has not been acted on. The Wild Sheep Society is calling out an SOS to concerned stake and title holders, citizens and those that do not wish to see further decimation, and eventual extinction. The 'Save Our Sheep' (SOS) campaign encourages citizens to engage their elected officials and demand action.

"It is time to take some serious action on this pandemic. The same way government has enacted strict measures for the citizens of British Columbia for COVID, we need to do the same thing for our wild sheep." said Kyle Stelter, Past President of WSSBC. "Wild sheep are very social animals. These family units watch each other slowly choke to death, and it's beyond sad, and incredibly frustrating," Stelter continued.

The SOS campaign has two simple steps, each one found on the WSSBC website.

1. Contact your local MLA and request a meeting regarding M. ovi.
2. Send a letter to your MLA, the Minister of Agriculture, and the Premier.

Multiple peer-reviewed studies have shown that keeping domestic sheep and goats separated from wild sheep is the most effective way to prevent this horrible disease from spreading. The science on this disease is clear; Only drastic and immediate action taken by government and other involved stakeholders can avert not only the decline, but the unfortunate and eventual extinction of a species that has roamed the hillsides of BC for years.

To find a template letter, and your elected officials contact information, please visit our website at

<https://www.wildsheepsociety.com/help/>

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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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