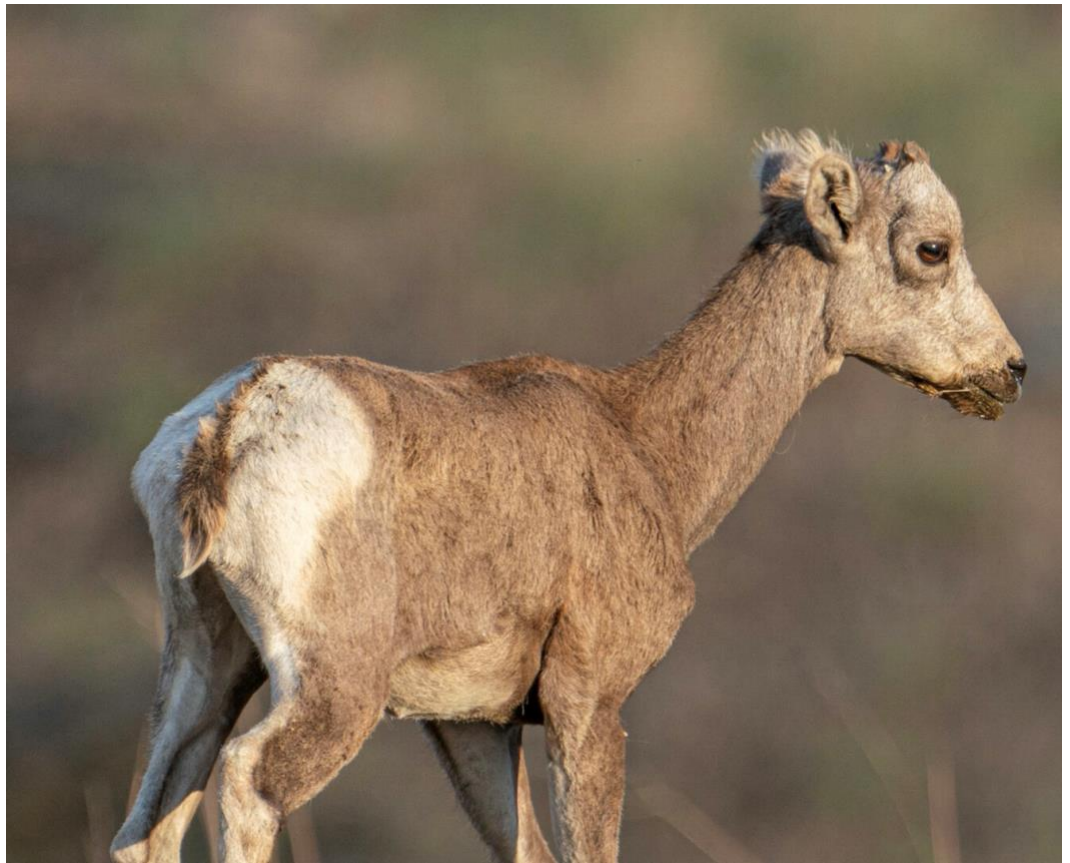




Talking Points for wild sheep

Quote

“The wildlife and its habitat cannot speak, so we must and we will.” Theodore Roosevelt



A m.ovi infected lamb from the South Okanagan that had to be destroyed to prevent the spread

Additional resources are available at:

www.wildsheepsociety.com/help

If you need additional assistance, contact us via email at:

communications@wildsheepsociety.com

Note

When meeting with your MLA only have a maximum of three points that you address and avoid drifting off topic. Elected officials are very limited on their time and having three succinct points will be much more effective than a long list of asks. It is imperative that you be on-time, respectful, listen to their position, and maintain the highest level of professionalism. Also, be sure to thank your elected official for meeting with you. We recommend raising the following three points.

M.Ovi is real and kills wild sheep

Wild Sheep are naive to many diseases present in domestic sheep. Without proper social distancing a disease infected domestic sheep can pass along infection and potentially wipe out an entire herd of wild sheep in a very short time frame. There is no known cure that has proven consistently scientifically effective to cure mycoplasma ovipneumonia - m.o.vi.

The solution is to provide areas that wild sheep can roam exclusively free from domestic sheep.

A government agreement to protect wild sheep

We are advocating for a Provincial Disease Control Strategy with Regulatory Framework. Working in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture along with the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development, we are seeking a policy that protects wild sheep while minimizing impact on domestic producers.

1. Identify all area that wild sheep inhabit in the province of British Columbia and establish a 50 km buffer zone.
2. Within the inhabited area and the outlying buffer zone identify the risk of disease transmission to wild sheep. This would consist of designating a low, medium, or high-risk zone.
3. Any area designated high-risk would require domestic producers to undertake mandatory screening, and if found infected by pathogens threatening wild sheep, look at mitigating those risks on a farm-by-farm basis.

Work with Wild Sheep Society of BC to implement

The Wild Sheep Society of BC officially approached the Minister of Agriculture to support a Regulatory Framework relating to wild sheep and domestic sheep separation in April of 2018. While there have been many hours at the bargaining table there has been no formal agreements reached.

Wild sheep like the most recent case of two baby lambs from the Vaseux Lake herd in the Southern Okanagan continue to succumb to m.o.vi. The Wild Sheep Society of BC respects the needs of domestic producers and recognizes the importance of industry. However, steps can be made to protect wild sheep so both domestic and wild sheep can co-exist without massive die-offs like we have seen in previous years that decimate wildlife populations.

Urgency in securing a Provincial Disease Control Strategy with Regulatory Framework cannot be emphasized enough.

Contact

Please let the Wild Sheep Society of BC know how about the success of your meeting by email at communications@wildsheepsociety.com. Thank you for taking the time to meet with your elected official and we encourage you to do so every six months until we see positive change for wild sheep.