



WILD SHEEP SOCIETY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thompson River Bighorn sheep face population declines by 50%
New collaboration determined to find out why

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Thompson River bighorn sheep populations have seen a drastic reduction by up to 50% over the last 6 to 8 years from approximately 750 individuals to approximately 350-375. The cause of this is currently unknown, but data suggests poor lamb survival and recruitment are the dominant factors. An alliance of concerned conservationists has taken a stance to get to the root cause of this situation.

The Wild Sheep Society of B.C (WSSBC) and its members have so far committed \$72,500 to this critical undertaking. \$52,500 will be used to purchase 40 GPS collars with a further \$20,000 allocated to helicopter capture time.

We are incredibly excited to announce partner funding from the Eastern Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation to add to this vital project. Additionally, the Eastern WSF and WSSBC are asking their members to support this project which will result in a 3-to-1 dollar match. The Eastern WSF, WSSBC and the Jurassic Classic fundraiser will each match every dollar donated.

“The collaboration among chapters and affiliates is paramount to the preservation of our Wild Sheep. The ECWSF is a proud partner of the work being done for the Thompson River bighorn sheep and look forward to continuing our support on this initiative and others, in conjunction with the Wild Sheep Society of British Columbia “added Robert Rogan, President of the Eastern Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation.

“We are incredibly thankful for the support of the Eastern Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation, who are standing alongside us in our mission. This is a great opportunity for membership involvement to continue to make a significant and meaningful difference on the landscape,” said Kyle Stelter, WSSBC CEO.

Multiple stake and title holder groups have come together in a collaboration like no other, with a purpose to find out the root cause of this decline and to act to stabilize, and then reverse it. The Wild Sheep Society of B.C is proud to be collaborating with the Skeetchestn Indian Band, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc, BC Wildlife Federation, and Thompson Rivers University on this project.

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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 hundreds of thousands of 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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