



Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council



FINAL CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS (ABSTRACTS)

The Biennial Symposium of the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council (Anchorage, Alaska, April 30–May 2, 2024) is seeking participants to present talks or posters. The organizing committee is accepting abstracts that report scientific investigations or policy related to bighorn sheep, thinhorn sheep, mountain goats, and related taxa. Papers and posters will be selected based on their relevance to research and management of wild sheep and mountain goats and their habitats. Session topics will cover ecology, management, disease and health, and other topics suggested by the submissions.

The theme for this year's conference is *"Recovering Populations in a Changing Environment"*. Many mountain goat and sheep populations across their range have declined and have taken a very long time to recover. Some still have not rebounded to historic numbers. Information on the cause of these declines and factors contributing to population recovery will help guide current and future decisions. The current meeting schedule is as follows:

Monday, April 29, 2024 – Evening Welcome Event/Mixer

Tuesday, April 30, 2024 – Presentations/Papers

Wednesday, May 1, 2024 – Field Trip/Evening Banquet

Thursday, May 2, 2024 – Presentation/Papers & Wrap-up

Friday, May 3, 2024 – An optional fieldtrip opportunity may be available

If you would like to share information about wild sheep or goats, please send a short description (Abstract) of your proposed topic to (heidi.hatcher@alaska.gov). Please use "NWSGC Abstract" as the subject of your email.

The deadline for abstracts has been extended from to February 9, 2024

Abstract submissions should include the following information:

- Contributor name(s), affiliation(s), and email addresses
- First choice presentation type (oral, poster)
- Title
- Short description (Abstract) limited to 300 words

You may have multiple submissions, but depending on program space, we will prioritize presentations given by a greater number of conference participants. Talks will be 15–20 minutes based on the number of talks accepted and time available in the program. Submissions will receive a

decision by February 28, 2024. If your attendance at the conference requires earlier notification, please email Heidi Hatcher (heidi.hatcher@alaska.gov).

We look forward to receiving your submission and encourage you to reach out (roy.churchwell@alaska.gov) with any questions. Registration links will be available soon.

Thank you,

NWSGC Program Committee

Biennial Symposium of the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council

Abstract Submission Form

Corresponding author: NAME, PHONE, EMAIL

Preferred presentation format: Paper / Poster

Is this a team presentation requiring two time slots? Yes / No

EXAMPLE ABSTRACT:

Bighorn Movement and Domestic Sheep Presence Surrounding a Case of Acute Fatal Pneumonia in a Bighorn Sheep

KEVIN A. BLECHA, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Gunnison, CO

KAREN A. FOX, Colorado Parks and Wildlife Health Lab, Fort Collins, CO

ABSTRACT: Mortality of bighorn sheep (*Ovis Canadensis*) after contact with domestic sheep (*Ovis aries*) has been documented in controlled pen studies, and through anecdotal observations in the wild. As a result, euthanasia of bighorns in contact with domestic sheep has become a routine management strategy for controlling introduction of pathogens to bighorn herds. Information regarding bighorn behavior before, during, and after contact with domestics may help further guide management practices. While studying the movements of a bighorn meta-population, we detected an acute pneumonia fatality of a GPS telemetered bighorn after contact with a recently introduced pen containing three hobby domestic sheep, immediately adjacent to a bighorn subherd's home range. GPS data on this and other telemetered bighorn in the vicinity revealed a variety of interesting movements temporally proximate to the contact event. Respiratory disease was not identified in any of the domestic sheep by routine veterinary exam. However, nasal and tonsil swabs confirmed the presence of respiratory disease-associated pathogens in all three domestic sheep. One domestic sheep was culled and necropsied revealing chronic upper respiratory disease. Coincidentally, in the years leading up to this event, this small bighorn subherd was already trending toward extirpation due to an aging herd and near-zero recruitment, likely facilitated by chronic respiratory disease in the herd. Although various factors prevented bighorn euthanasia as a management strategy, the GPS telemetry data from this herd provides insights as to how bighorn sheep movements may be affected by the presence of domestic sheep on the landscape, leading to interspecific contacts.

ABSTRACT GUIDELINES

Title:

- ☐ Do not use scientific names in the title.
- ☐ Use Calibri, 14 pt., Bold
- ☐ Capitalize the First Letter of Principal Words

Authors:

- ☐ Name: First name, middle initial, then last name (in that order)
- ☐ Affiliation: May include the department and organization (e.g., ecology department, Montana State University) or just the organization (e.g., USDA Forest Service)
- ☐ Location: City and state,
- ☐ Do not include mailing addresses, zip codes, job titles (e.g., biologist), or degree level (e.g., Ph.D.)
- ☐ Use ALL CAPS for author's name
- ☐ Place an asterisk (*) next to presenting author(s) names

Abstract:

- ☐ An abstract is a brief distillation of the purpose, methods, results and conclusions. It should express concisely the key information. Evidence summarized should have a conclusion, but with no inflammatory or judgmental statements.
- ☐ Abstracts should be a single paragraph. Length should not exceed 250 words
- ☐ Common and scientific names of organisms are appropriate.
- ☐ The geographic location of field studies (e.g. drainage or region, state or province) should be given, if not specified in the title.
- ☐ Abbreviations are permissible, but only if their meaning is spelled out on first mention
- ☐ Supportive references or literature are not cited.
- ☐ Neither persons, organizations, nor grantors providing funding are acknowledged.
- ☐ Use Calibri 11 pt. font

Formatting:

- ☐ Everything should be left aligned. Single-space lines, but add a space (6 pt—preferably using the “add a space after paragraph” button in MS Word) after the title and after the last author
- ☐ If you do not have MS word or Calibri font, please select a similar font