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This may be a little tough for me as I am an outfitter and not a public speaker, but I have learned to tell a few lies in order to survive.

I started in this business down around the Pincher Creek area quite a number of years ago which was the best bighorn country in the world, I think and the Boone and Crockett Word Record Club will vouch for this. At that time the area I hunted was real fine as the fire roads in there were chained off and we thought we had it made. Then the public pressure opened up these roads as they felt we were harvesting all the game and about that time exploration came to that country and put roads up every canyon and I mean to the very top. Due to this there are 3,000 hunters there for the first day or so of the season. I therefore moved to Jasper Park 4 years ago where I bought out a very good man, Mr. Tom McCready. Now I have nothing against coal or gas, but I would like to see some areas kept like they are.

Now there is no non-resident sheep hunting south of the Bow River and up here they must draw for a permit. This is hard to understand when it is not from a shortage of sheep but from too many hunters in the field at one time.

The outfitters may have caused some of this but I feel that when the Fish and Wildlife Division took us out of the Game Act they caused a lot of this as they then got 600 Class A guides or outfitters in one year and I would like to see the outfitters put back in the Game Act so they could control us.

They can talk game management, but they can not do this if they can not police it.

When one of us outfitters talk about these things they always say that we are trying to feather our own nest and I say yes if I can not make a living out of it, I will go into something where I can.

We talk of bighorns and I do believe that anyone who lasted in my business must be an ardent sheep hunter or he would not have stayed in the business and had to fight with everyone; he would have done something where he could make a living better.

As for Jasper Park, I am very pleased to be there as it is a great place with some great fishing and scenery. I take out a number of summer trips with great people like National Geographic and they would like to come back in a couple of years for a complete summer photo trip and we want to be able to do this but won't be able to for long if this mining, gas and oil tears up our mountains.

Now I may get shot before I get out of here, but I have seen these mining towns in the south and the men have too much time off and make too much money so consequently you get a lot of poaching which is hard to police and that is what we will have in the Grande Cache area and more so with more roads.

As far as I am concerned the Willmore is the only Wilderness Area that we have left in Alberta. They talk about Wilderness Areas but to me they aren't If you can walk across them in a couple of hours. When I take people into the wilderness I want to be completely away from roads, towns,

etc. We don't want cars or trains keeping us awake at nights and now we could lose this to the coal mining exploration.

I would like my grand children to have some of the things that I have had when they grow up. When someone says to them, your Grandad used to outfit bighorn sheep hunters in the mountains, they may say what is a bighorn and further what is a mountain.

So ladies and gentlemen, lets all try and keep this Willmore Wilderness as it is. Thank you.

PROTECTION AND RECLAMATION OF BIGHORN SHEEP
RANGE IN THE FOOTHILLS OF ALBERTA

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Winter Range Ecology

Just as winter often restricts man's movements on the ground, big game animals find themselves confined to rather small portions of their habitat where protection, forage and snow depths are to their advantage. In the foothills of Alberta, this winter range is shared at various times by bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer and perhaps moose, horses or other livestock; it is mainly composed of openings and southerly facing, grassy slopes, bordered by open mixedwood or coniferous forests. The climax grass species in many of these open areas in southern Alberta is Festuca scabrella.

Several ecological factors combine to make winter range quality of great importance for the maintenance of bighorn sheep herds. First, if winter range becomes restricted or deteriorated, malnutrition will occur at a time when climatic factors are the most severe. Secondly, poor winter forage may increase the incidence of lungworm disease and lamb mortality, or cause late breeding by ewes. Thirdly, sheep often have to compete with other grazing animals that use the same range at various times during the year. And, fourthly, these same areas are the first to green up in the spring and thus provide for the recovery of animals from poor winter forage conditions. These ecological relationships combine to determine the carrying capacity of winter ranges, which is a key factor in the management and conservation of wild sheep herds.

Range Protection

The federal government does not have a historical mandate for the protection of wildlife species and habitats outside the National Parks and the Territories, although the proposed Canada Wildlife Act would allow for the designation and protection of rare and endangered animals, and in cooperation with provincial governments, the Act would allow for the federal government to acquire, control and manage lands for conservation and study of wildlife resources. Habitat protection through land-use management is in most cases a provincial responsibility. The two main threats to sheep winter range in Alberta are overgrazing by sheep or competing animals, and