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DEIRDRE S. MERWIN - IMMOBILIZATION OF FREE-RANGING ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN EWES WITH TELAZOL® AND XYLAZINE HYDROCHLORIDE

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Abstract: We determined the efficacy of immobilizing human-habituated, free-ranging Rocky Mountain bighorn ewes (*Ovis canadensis canadensis*) with Telazol® and xylazine hydrochloride (HCl) in summer and winter. Telazol® is a 1:1 combination of tiletamine HCl and zolazepam HCl. Eleven sheep were readily approached from the ground and darted with 1 of 3 drug combinations. Mean induction time was 20.1 min. (Range=42 to 140). Sheep that fled after being darted had significantly longer induction times. Sheep that received greater doses of xylazine HCl had significant increases in the duration of immobilization. When used in combination with Telazol®, the xylazine HCl dose required for effective immobilization in this study was less than reported in similar studies where xylazine HCl was used alone or in combination with ketamine. In this study, 250 mg of Telazol® (4.2 mg/kg) and 30 mg of xylazine HCl (0.5 mg/kg) in winter and 370 mg of Telazol® (6.2 mg/kg) and 30 mg of xylazine HCl (0.5 mg/kg) in summer provided effective and safe immobilization in human-habituated, free ranging bighorn sheep with minimal side effects.

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