

Managing the Risk of Disease Transmission from Domestic Sheep to Wild Sheep through the British Columbia Sheep Separation Program

JEREMY B. AYOTTE,¹ *British Columbia Sheep Separation Program, 168 Larch Hills, Salmon Arm, BC, V1E 2Y4, Canada*

HELEN SCHWANTJE, *Fish, Wildlife and Habitat Management Branch, P.O. Box 9391 Stn Prov Govt, 4th Floor, 2975 Jutland Road, Victoria, BC V8W 9M8, Canada*

ABSTRACT The British Columbia Sheep Separation Program is an active working group that has members from the domestic sheep industry, wild sheep conservation groups, First Nations, and the provincial government. Our program focuses on education and outreach, coordinating the delivery of novel farm-specific mitigation projects and affecting policy change to limit or exclude domestic sheep farms from high-risk areas to protect wild sheep. With British Columbia's most recent pneumonia-related die-off likely unfolding in southern British Columbia, the program is acting on the increasing frustration and elevated profile of this issue to find effective long-term solutions.

Biennial Symposium of the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council 19:113; 2014

KEY WORDS bighorn sheep, British Columbia, disease, domestic sheep, mitigation, *Ovis canadenses*, pneumonia.

¹ E-mail: jeremy.ayotte@gmail.com