



## **Wild Sheep Foundation, Inc.**

### **Policy Statement on Exotic Wild Sheep and Goats**

Exotic free-ranging wild sheep and goats including Armenian sheep, aoudad (Barbary sheep), mouflon, red sheep, urial sheep, ibex, tahr, and other species are legal game in some jurisdictions. Conservation of native wild sheep and the ecosystems they occupy comprise the primary mission of the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF), but the Foundation recognizes that certain species are of value to hunters, state wildlife agencies, and landowners.

Under certain conditions, exotic wild sheep or goats can impact native wildlife and especially wild sheep. Examples of such impacts include competition, disruption of social behavior, health threats, and adverse affects on habitat. WSF encourages efforts to improve science-based management and supports state, provincial and territorial wildlife agency efforts to pro-actively manage free-ranging native and exotic wild sheep or goats.

It is the position of WSF that management of free-ranging exotic wild sheep or goats is best carried out by state, provincial, or territorial agencies charged with conservation of wildlife because those agencies are best equipped to implement actions necessary to achieve specified management objectives for wild sheep, other wildlife species, and free-ranging exotic ungulates.