



Position Statement
Access to Manage Wildlife
On Federal Lands

Background

State fish and wildlife agencies in the West are often faced with federal land managers' varying interpretations of federal laws, regulations and policies that in some instances hinder or preclude state wildlife management agencies from access to conduct vital wildlife research and management.

Recommendations

The Wild Sheep Foundation expects clear language in all future or amended legislation, regulations, and policies ensuring that state wildlife management agencies and their designees can properly conduct wildlife management and research. In addition, existing regulations and policies should also be amended to reflect such language.

Legislation, regulations, and policies should include the word "*shall*" rather than "*may*" when referring to the states' rights to manage wildlife on federal lands within their respective states.

State wildlife agencies and their designees shall have the authority to effectively and proactively manage wildlife on federal lands to include the use of mechanized equipment/aircraft to perform, but not be limited to, the following:

Capture work, surveys, disease monitoring and intervention, removal of exotic species, installation and maintenance of wildlife water developments, translocations, predator management, enhancement of natural springs and seeps for wildlife, cooperative habitat restoration, along with removal of compromised individual animals.