

WILD SHEEP FOUNDATION

# CONSERVATION VISION 2030

Strengthening Partnerships for Wild Sheep

Mountain sheep hold a special place—not only within the hunter-conservationist community, but among people around the world. Their presence in rugged mountain ranges, deep river canyons, and remote badlands reflects our enduring connection to wild places and our responsibility to conserve them.

For many, simply knowing that wild sheep still persist in their historic ranges is meaningful. But both these landscapes and the species that inhabit them face significant challenges. Their future depends on more than awareness alone - it requires action.

That future can only be secured through strong, collaborative partnerships. A sustained commitment of time, resources, and energy is essential to protect, conserve, and enhance wild sheep populations and the habitats they depend on.

The Wild Sheep Foundation is the only international conservation organization committed to Putting and Keeping Wild Sheep on the Mountain®.



  
WILD SHEEP  
Foundation

[WWW.WILDSHEEPFOUNDATION.ORG](http://WWW.WILDSHEEPFOUNDATION.ORG)

# OVERARCHING GOALS

**1.** PROTECT,  
CONSERVE,  
and ENHANCE wild  
sheep habitat

**2.** RESTORE,  
MAINTAIN, and  
EXPAND wild sheep  
in suitable habitat

**3.** ENHANCE and  
MAINTAIN  
capacity for, and  
advancements  
in, science-based  
conservation of  
wild sheep through  
sustainable use

**4.** SAFEGUARD  
and EXPAND  
sustainable wild sheep  
hunting opportunities



## Actions to Achieve Overarching Goals

### 1) PROTECT, CONSERVE, and ENHANCE wild sheep habitat

- a) Promote and support active habitat management on private, public, indigenous and tribal lands.
- b) Advocate for the application of prescribed fire and other treatments to achieve desired vegetation communities.
- c) Support development of strategies and actions to mitigate invasive plants (e.g., cheatgrass, noxious weeds, juniper, and other woody species).
- d) Develop adaptive management plans responsive to environmental conditions that repeatedly affect wild sheep (e.g., drought and severe winters) and invest in habitat restoration to counter degradation.
- e) Develop, maintain, expand, and monitor surface water sources that benefit not only desert bighorn sheep but a diverse array of desert-dwelling wildlife.
- f) Increase habitat resiliency and monitoring programs to track ecological changes and initiate timely interventions.
- g) Promote and support intensive management practices or other adaptive approaches that improve nutritional quality and quantity of available forage, especially for struggling or depressed herds.
- h) Negotiate and implement domestic sheep grazing allotment retirements to reduce potential for pathogen transmission, subsequent respiratory pneumonia, and disease die-offs in wild sheep.
- i) Develop effective strategies, including the use of technology, to reduce commingling and achieve effective spatial and temporal separation between wild sheep and domestic sheep, domestic goats, or infected wild sheep.
- j) Promote and implement conservation easements, strategic acquisitions, and land exchanges.
- k) Support mitigation of exotic and feral ungulate (e.g., aoudad, feral horses, and burros) impacts on wild sheep and their habitats.



### 2) RESTORE, MAINTAIN, and EXPAND wild sheep in suitable habitat

- a) Collaborate with private landowners, tribal/indigenous managers, and federal/state/provincial/territorial managers to establish new wild sheep herds and/or re-establish wild sheep herds in suitable habitats.
- b) Promote standardized monitoring of wild sheep herd health and population status.
- c) Identify and help create healthy private-land/tribal/public-land source herds for translocation.
- d) Improve relationships between wild sheep and domestic sheep stakeholders to protect existing wild sheep and facilitate establishment of new wild sheep populations.

## Actions to Achieve Overarching Goals

### 3) ENHANCE and MAINTAIN capacity for, and advancements in, science-based conservation of wild sheep through sustainable use

- a) Promote, encourage, and support the establishment of wild sheep population goals by the responsible management agencies.
- b) Promote research and discovery to inform science-based approaches to increase resiliency of wild sheep populations and habitats.
- c) Help build and expand collaboration among wildlife agencies and professionals.
- d) Engage and educate state and federal officials and agencies on wild sheep conservation needs and opportunities.
- e) Demonstrate how the connection between sustainable use and the wild sheep economy has led and continues to lead in the recovery of wild sheep populations.
- f) Advocate for IUCN, CITES, and other international regulatory bodies to support sustainable use and the rights of indigenous wildlife resource managers.
- g) Seek and provide financial and technical support for international partner agencies and organizations.

### 4) SAFEGUARD and EXPAND sustainable wild sheep hunting opportunities

- a) Strive for increased public access to the wild sheep resource.
- b) Promote cultural relationships and conservation outcomes linked to sustainable wild sheep hunting.
- c) Protect current and advocate for new unlimited (over-the-counter) opportunities where consistent with agency management objectives.
- d) Expand the availability and use of Conservation Permits to enhance funding to further support wild sheep conservation and sustainable use initiatives.
- e) Achieve a 5% net gain in wild sheep hunting by 2030 by ensuring that opportunities are added where populations can support the addition of permits and tags.



SCAN  
to learn more  
about wild sheep  
conservation.

