



Policy on Promotion of Aoudad Hunting

Approved-June 15, 2025

Conservation of native wild sheep and the ecosystems they occupy comprise the primary mission of the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF). WSF supports scientific solutions to resource management challenges, and to that end, WSF has invested heavily in research related to disease investigations and mitigation, wild sheep populations and habitat management, control of non-native wildlife, and other strategies. WSF recognizes the value of some exotic species to hunters, state wildlife agencies, and landowners; however, any endeavor that is counter to the WSF mission should be avoided.

Recent scientific research shows that aoudad (*Ammotragus lervia*) have adversely impacted both desert bighorn sheep populations and the habitat in which they live. In Texas alone, aoudad have reduced the native desert bighorn sheep populations by over 75%, with numbers continuing to decline. These declines are the result of pathogen transmission from aoudad to desert bighorns, impacts to social structure of native bighorn sheep herds, and degradation of habitat.

The Wild Sheep Foundation finds the promotion of aoudad hunting in direct opposition to our purpose of "Putting and Keeping Wild Sheep on the Mountain". Effective immediately, WSF has implemented a moratorium on all sales, support, promotion, or advertising of any aoudad hunting at any WSF event, publication, on social media, or other communication. This includes, but is not limited to, promotion & selling of aoudad hunts by exhibitors at its annual Sheep Show® convention, inclusion in WSF's auctions, raffles, and its Awards program. The moratorium and prohibition does not affect the promotion or sales of Barbary sheep legally hunted in its native range in northern Africa.

Additionally, WSF respectfully requests that all its Chapters and Affiliates take the same action.