



## ***Wild Sheep Foundation Announces Thinhorn Sheep Summit II***

Bozeman, Montana – November 4, 2016: Following the success and outcomes from the first-ever Thinhorn Sheep Summit I held April 2014 in Richmond, British Columbia, the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) Conservation Committee will convene and host Thinhorn Sheep Summit II on April 11-12, 2017 in Anchorage, Alaska. “The purpose of this second summit will be to discuss and evaluate priority action items for Dall’s sheep and Stone’s sheep that were identified at Summit I,” stated Gray N. Thornton, WSF President and CEO. “Significant investments of time, funding, and focus have occurred since Summit I, and WSF believes it is appropriate to critically evaluate progress and existing obstacles to thinhorn sheep conservation and management,” added Thornton.

“More than 70 Dall’s sheep and Stone’s sheep managers, researchers, conservation advocates, guide/outfitter representatives, resident sportsmen and women, First Nations representatives, students and other interested stakeholders convened for 2 days in April 2014,” according to WSF Senior Conservation Director and Thinhorn Sheep Program Lead Kevin Hurley. “WSF anticipates 75-100 stakeholders for Thinhorn Sheep Summit II, from Alaska, British Columbia, Yukon Territory, Northwest Territories, and beyond,” added Hurley.

Technical presentations, panel discussions, jurisdictional breakout sessions, and large-group discussions will focus on key thinhorn sheep management challenges and strategies. These include comprehensive thinhorn sheep management plans, disease status and surveillance, separation strategies to achieve effective spatial and temporal separation between domestic sheep and goats and thinhorn sheep, co-management of wild sheep by First Nations, indigenous peoples and federal agencies, and identification and prioritization of action items for the next three to five years, and beyond.

“WSF appreciates sponsor funding that supported Thinhorn Sheep Summit I in 2014,” said Thornton; “we look forward to organizing and hosting another great event in Alaska in 2017.” Organizations, businesses, and individuals interested in helping sponsor the 2017 Thinhorn Sheep Summit II are respectfully requested to contact either Gray N. Thornton or Kevin Hurley at WSF Headquarters in Bozeman, MT.

*The Wild Sheep Foundation, formerly the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep (FNAWS,) was founded in 1977 by wild sheep conservationists and enthusiasts. WSF’s Mission is to enhance wild sheep populations, promote professional wildlife management, and educate the public and youth on sustainable use and the conservation benefits of hunting while promoting the interests of the hunter and all stakeholders. With a membership of more than 6,500 worldwide and a Chapter and Affiliate network in North America and Europe, WSF is the premier advocate for wild sheep, other mountain wildlife, their habitat, and their conservation. Since forming in 1977, the Wild Sheep Foundation and its chapters and affiliates have raised and expended more than \$110 million on conservation, education and conservation advocacy programs in North America, Europe and Asia towards its Purpose to “Put and Keep Wild Sheep On the Mountain”™. These and other efforts have resulted in a three-fold increase in bighorn sheep populations in North America from their historic 1950-60s lows of ~25,000 to ~85,000 today. WSF, our Chapters and Affiliates and agencies partners are also working together to ensure thinhorn sheep thrive in their northern mountain realms for generations to enjoy.*