



WSF's 2014 Thinhorn Sheep Summit Action Plan Update
The Kevin & Janine Rinke Thinhorn Initiative

March 2015 Update

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“NO CONTACT IN THE NORTH”

Legislation is part of the solution

Recent Actions/Strategies:

- Confirmed on agenda: Jeremy will travel to Whitehorse, Yukon to make presentations and lead discussions of Thinhorn Sheep Separation Resolution set for Yukon Renewable Resource Council Annual General Workshop May 1, 2015.
- No Contact in the North presentation made to BC Wild Sheep Society Conference and AGM in Kelowna BC (March 13-14).
- Engaged WSF Thinhorn Initiative working group from all jurisdictions through monthly update (AK, BC, NWT, YT)

Jurisdictional Updates:

- **YK:** Dan Reynolds has confirmed that Jeremy Ayotte will present at the Dawson Renewable Resource Council (RRC) Annual General Workshop May 1, 2015 AGM. Over the past couple of weeks, Jeremy has been working to support Dan's submission of a proposed Resolution to the RRC. The information package sent to Dan included the 2015 joint issue statement from The Wildlife Society and the Association of American Wildlife Vets, and the 2005 Resolution statement made by the Union of BC Indian Chiefs that supports exclusion of domestic sheep from wild sheep range across their traditional lands. Resolutions that are passed by the RRC move through the Fish and Wildlife Management Board and eventually become submitted as Recommendations to the Minister, for possible approval. Details of an internal government meeting with the Yukon Department of Environment and the Agriculture Branch are still being developed. A third public presentation will also be organized for this trip to Whitehorse, in conjunction with the newly-chartered Yukon WSF Chapter (39 members, as of 4/7/2015).
- **AK:** A 2015 Alaska National Park Service Compendium published in mid-March determined the likelihood of disease transmission between llamas or alpacas to wild sheep or mountain goats was “probably low, although still possible”. After a public comment period in February, domestic sheep and goats were banned from Alaska's National Parks, but pack llamas and alpacas were allowed to continue to be used to access alpine areas. (WSF-AK Chapter currently at 114 members, as of 4/7/2015).

Actions to Implement:

- **(NWT):** Discussion must continue with Dehcho and Sahtu Co-Management Board. The presentations planned for the Yukon this spring must be used to unify effort across boundaries (Dehcho-Sahtu, Yukon- NWT).
- **(YK):** Recent focus has been on supporting policy and resolution development in YK. This coming month will also require planning and preparation for the 3 meetings planned in Whitehorse. Now that meeting details are confirmed, Jeremy to work with Yukon Outfitters Association and others involved with WSF Yukon Chapter to coordinate public presentation details and advertising.

- **(AK):** Consider whether input to NPS public forum on using llamas and alpacas in Alaska National Parks could have been better supported. Although the key focus must be on domestic sheep and goats, we should all be “on the same page” when it comes to discussing camelids as pack animals in the alpine. Continue to work with Wayne Heimer/Kevin Kehoe to support their work to develop a Brief for 2016 Alaska Legislature. Any relevant briefing notes from other jurisdictions should be sent to Kevin K.
- **(All):** Coordinate monthly conference call with Thinhorn Initiative working group to update everyone and emphasize strength of multi-jurisdictional approach.
- **(All):** Consider developing promotional material for *No Contact in the North* program. Continue to compile information on each jurisdictional context:
 - public land management (are there concerns with public land grazing of domestic sheep/goats near wild sheep range? can we prohibit the use of sheep/goat/llama as pack animals? are there permitting processes we can use?)
 - private land regulations and politics (are private farms the key concerns? are there agricultural acts/regulations protecting farm practices?)
 - wildlife management (what is our lobby strength? what is the role of First Nations?)
 - regional protocols for confirmed contact (can this be developed within each region? such a protocol demonstrates critical importance of issue)
 - information management (is there a regional database with accurate thinhorn herd range polygons? are the locations of domestic sheep farms known being tracked?)