



March 3, 2022

New Mexico State Game Commission

1 Wildlife Way

Santa Fe, NM 87507

Sharon Salazar Hickey, Chair

Roberta Salazar-Henry

Jimmy Bates

Tirzio Lopez

Michael Sloane, Secretary

Dear Commissioners and Director Sloane:

The idea as presented to the Commission of allocating bighorn sheep tags on a per-unit, hunt code basis implicates vital considerations for the continued progress of wild sheep conservation in New Mexico.

Should the commission decide to pursue this direction, we strongly suggest beginning with informed discussion among all interested parties including members of the public convened by the Commission, state, and national conservation organizations such as the New Mexico Wild Sheep Foundation, the Wild Sheep Foundation, the Boone and Crockett Club, and others. For decades, we have diligently raised funds that have supported bighorn sheep conservation in New Mexico.

We offer our assistance in fostering a successful discussion and can provide pertinent information. Wild sheep biological data and economic impact studies will support inclusive collaboration with all stakeholders and aid your decision-making process toward the goal of conservation.

We respect that allocation of hunting permits between residents and non-residents is the responsibility of each state, province, or territory. We do not engage in these decision-making processes unless a proposal negatively impacts the resource or overall hunting opportunities.

This proposal could do both by reducing funding for wild sheep conservation and the Department charged with their health and restoration. Much of the conservation funding for New Mexico wild sheep programs is generated from a diversity of other states. The combined efforts of all stakeholders to increase wild sheep and other game populations and achieve greater access and opportunities for all hunters and outdoor enthusiasts is the driver of New

Mexico's success in wild sheep conservation. This unity maximizes license and tag revenue to benefit the resource in the best possible manner.

On this basis, we would eagerly engage with the Commission in discussions regarding bighorn sheep allocations and welcome the chance to provide a multitude of resources. The effective application of New Mexico enhancement license and bighorn sheep general donation revenues to management and restoration of New Mexico's wild sheep resource requires wide participation and ensures their sustainable use.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Gray N. Thornton
President & CEO, Wild Sheep Foundation



Tony A. Schoonen
CEO, Boone and Crockett Club

C: Bryan Bartlett, President, New Mexico Wild Sheep Foundation