



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

April 2015 Update

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“NO CONTACT IN THE NORTH”

Legislation is part of the solution

MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN YUKON TERRITORY!!

Recent Actions/Strategies:

- Jeremy travelled to Whitehorse, Yukon at the end of April to make an important presentation to the Yukon Renewable Resource Councils (RRC) Annual General Meeting (AGM). This is an annual event, and the only time that all Yukon Councils come together to propose and vote on Resolutions. Several weeks earlier, Dan Reynolds of Dawson RRC proposed a specific Resolution calling for Yukon Government to *“enable overarching legislation that will provide for effective means of separation between wild and domestic sheep and goats to ensure healthy wild sheep populations in the long-term and the sustainability of the sustenance, hunting and commercial opportunities Yukon’s wild sheep provide”*. Through the efforts of the Thinhorn Initiative, Jeremy and Kevin provided Dan with background information (e.g., Joint Issue Statements, and Resolutions) and documentation of recent die-off events (e.g., North Dakota, Montana, Washington). Dan also lobbied hard to secure a presentation by Jeremy on the Thinhorn-Domestic Separation issue on the agenda for the RRC AGM. Because of Dan’s proactive effort and our support from the Thinhorn Initiative, the Resolution was passed unanimously. This was an historic event, the first time a Resolution was proposed and approved at the same Annual Working Group meeting. First Nations leadership across the Yukon Territory was very supportive of the resolution. The next step in this process involves the Councils’ submission of a recommendation to the Yukon Minister of Environment that is supported by this Resolution. The Minister must consider the recommendation within fixed timelines, and the response (accept, modify, or reject) must provide a rationale for the decision. We will continue to support the Yukon as they work to develop this regulatory framework, and hope that their commitment will encourage other jurisdictions to work toward the same goal.
- Through support from Troy Hegel (Environment Yukon Ungulate Biologist) and Dr. Mary Vanderkop (Environment Yukon Chief Veterinary Office), Jeremy also gave a presentation to Yukon Government staff (Ministry of Agriculture, and Fish & Wildlife) on May 4, 2015, after the RRC AGM. The meeting was well attended, and included staff from Agriculture Branch, 2 Environment Assistant Deputy Ministers, staff from Policy/Environmental Programs, and staff from Fish & Wildlife Health.
- The BC Sheep Separation Program has recently developed branding and logo for a positive marketing approach that would support domestic sheep farms that operate outside of wild sheep range. The logo and other promotional materials were presented at the RRC and Yukon Government meetings:



Jurisdictional Updates:

- **(YK):** In Reno, NV in mid-April, the Wild Sheep Foundation Board of Directors unanimously approved the new Yukon WSF Chapter, with Clint Walker as President.
- **(YK):** Yukon Renewable Resources Councils pass Wild/Domestic Sheep and Goats: Legislated Separation Resolution by full consensus (see attached Resolution document).

Actions to Implement:

- **(NWT):** Re-engage Dehcho and Sahtu Co-Management Boards in light of support for Yukon Resolution .
- **(YK):** Continue to support Dan Reynolds and others in the Yukon as the Resolution and associated Recommendations move up to the Minister level.
- **(AK):** Continue to work with Wayne Heimer/Kevin Kehoe to support their work to develop a Brief to Alaska Legislature.
- **(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?)