Pneumonia in Bighorn Sheep, Lower Gros Ventre Drainage, Wyoming, March 2010

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Abstract: In late February/early March 2010, Wyoming Game and Fish Department personnel observed 4–5 bighorn sheep exhibiting signs of pneumonia (i.e., extended coughing, nasal discharge) in a small sub-herd of 50-60 bighorns, on the Lower Gros Ventre River drainage northeast of Jackson Hole. Two ram lambs were euthanized and necropsied on March 9 and 10, 2010. On examination, both animals had 12-20% consolidation in the lower lobes of their lungs, but otherwise appeared to be in good health, with good to moderate body fat deposition. Additional post-mortem examination and diagnostic lab analyses confirmed bronchopneumonia, with Bibersteinia trehalosi cultured, and the first instance of Mycoplasma oviipneumoniae (via PCR, @ WADDL) documented in a Wyoming bighorn sheep. Subsequent ground monitoring has not indicated additional bighorn mortality in this sub-herd.

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