

# BRITISH COLUMBIA PROVINCIAL WILD SHEEP REGISTRY TOOL

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**Abstract:** There is a keen interest in wild sheep from various Government and non-Government groups in British Columbia and abroad, and the information that has been collected about these species is diverse. There is a lot of valuable information about wild sheep in British Columbia, but the data need to be compiled, organized, managed and made accessible for use. This project was established in order to build a tool that is centrally-located (single-source), as complete as possible, well-integrated to include multiple information sources, useful and accessible to various users, and maintained to ensure that the information remains current.

Numerous regional biologists, guide outfitters, and other sheep biologists have contributed to developing the registry over the years. This current project will also bring about the completion and update of the following previous HCTF-funded projects:

- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis canadensis*) critical range mapping and herd registry (2002-03)
- California Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis californiana*) critical range mapping and herd registry (2002-03)
- Skeena-Omineca Thinhorn Sheep (*Ovis dalli*) range mapping and herd registry (2004-05)
- Peace Thinhorn Sheep range mapping and herd registry (2005-06)

The objectives of this project were to: determine users' requirements for this information; make the previously collected wild sheep information available through the BC Geographic Warehouse (BCGW, formerly the Land Resource Data Warehouse (LRDW)); identify information gaps; and determine reporting requirements. The intended outcomes were: 1) to compile information from various data sources into a single central location that can be used for comprehensive decision-making; 2) to provide up-to-date, relevant and consistent information about wild sheep that is readily available to various users; and 3) to foster shared stewardship of BC's wild sheep.

The poster illustrated the original herd/population boundaries established for both bighorn and thinhorn sheep, with examples of the information collected about each herd/population.

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**Key words:** Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, *Ovis canadensis canadensis*, California bighorn sheep, *Ovis canadensis californiana*, Thinhorn sheep, *Ovis dalli*, database.

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