

WAC 220-500-045: Domestic Goats and Sheep on WDFW-managed Lands

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Presentation Outline

- Background
- Emergency Rule History
- Rule Overview
- Rulemaking Process
- Public Comments Summary



Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*)

- Species of Greatest Conservation Need in the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP).
- Priority Species under WDFW's Priority Habitat and Species (PHS) Program.
- Approximately 1,500 in 17 herds in central and eastern WA.



Bighorn Sheep Management Goals

- Preserve, protect, perpetuate, and manage bighorn sheep and their habitats to ensure healthy, productive populations.
- Manage bighorn sheep for a variety of recreational, educational and aesthetic purposes including hunting, scientific study, cultural and ceremonial uses by Native Americans, wildlife viewing, and photography.
- Manage statewide bighorn sheep populations for a sustained yield.

Game Management Plan, July 2015-June 2021

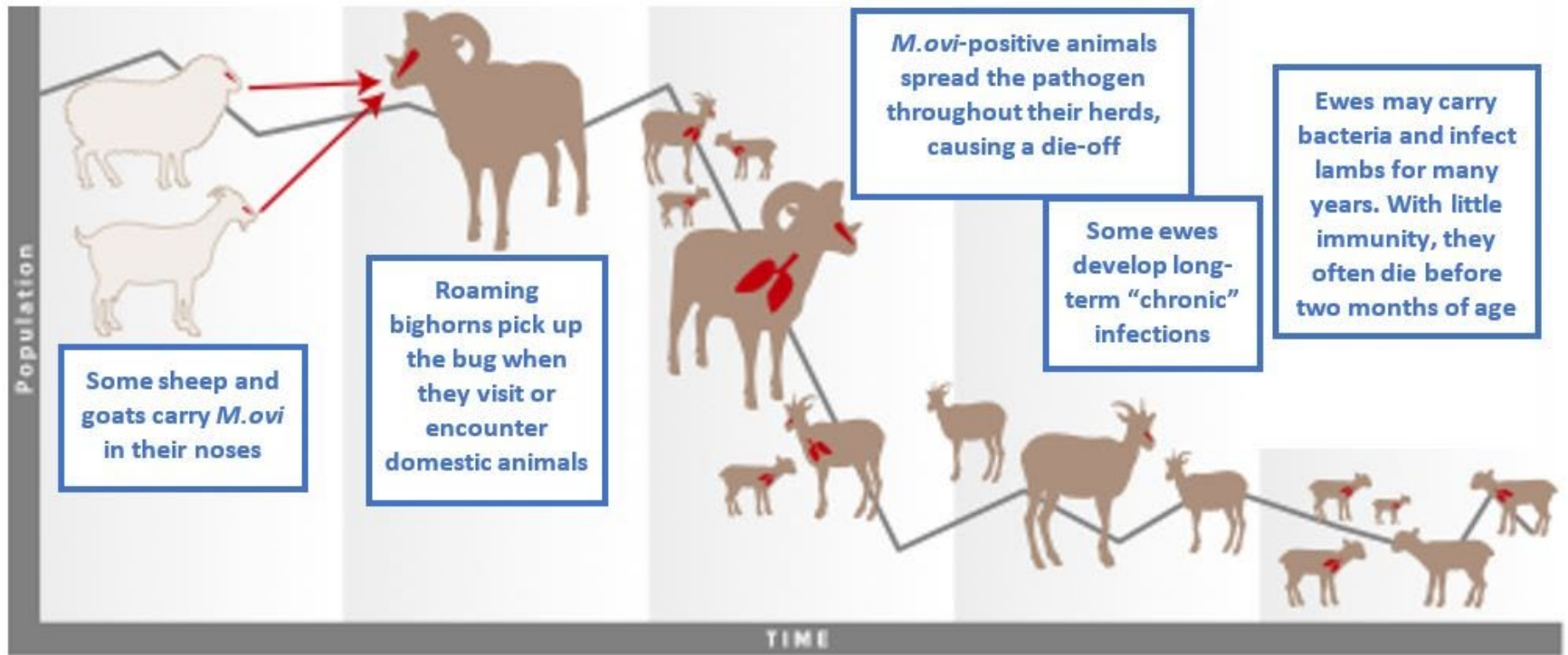


Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae

- Bacteria commonly found in nasal cavity and sinuses of apparently healthy domestic sheep and goats.
- Transmitted via nose-to-nose contact and/or aerosol droplets (less common).
- Infection often causes large all-age die-offs followed by years of poor lamb recruitment.



Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae



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The use of domestic sheep or goats as pack animals by persons that travel in identified wild sheep habitat should be prohibited by the appropriate management agency

Wild Sheep Working Group
Western Association Of Fish And Wildlife Agencies,
2012

Emergency Rule History

5/21: Amended to WAC 220-500-040

2/22: WAC 220-500-04000I

“It is unlawful for any person to cause or allow goats or sheep to be untethered or unattended...”

6/22: WAC 220-500-04000J

10/22: WAC 220-500-04000L

“It is unlawful ... to bring or lead domestic goats or sheep...”



PROPOSED RULE

WAC 220-500-045 (1)

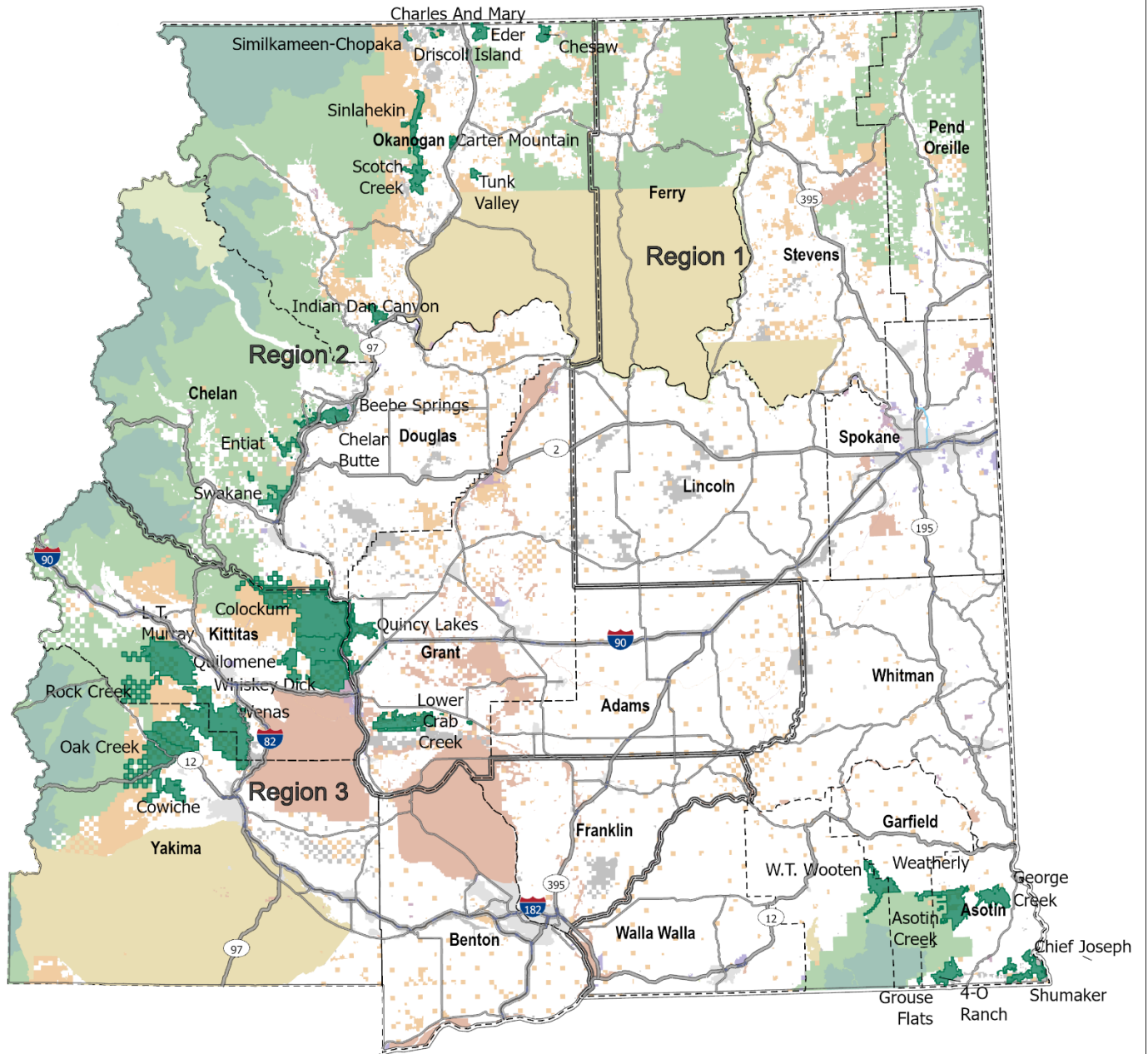
It is unlawful for any person to bring or lead domestic goats or sheep onto the following department wildlife area units or other WDFW-managed lands posted as closed to domestic goats or sheep, unless otherwise permitted by the director to do so:



WAC 220-500-045 (1)

- (a) Asotin Creek Wildlife Area: Asotin Creek, Weatherly, and George Creek Units;
- (b) Chelan Wildlife Area: Beebe Springs, Chelan Butte, Swakane, and Entiat Units;
- (c) Chief Joseph Wildlife Area: Chief Joseph, 4-0 Ranch, Grouse Flats, and Shumaker Units;
- (d) Colockum Wildlife Area: Colockum Unit;
- (e) Columbia Basin Wildlife Area: Lower Crab Creek and Quincy Lakes Units;
- (f) L.T. Murray Wildlife Area: Quilomene, L.T. Murray, and Whis-key Dick Units;
- (g) Oak Creek Wildlife Area: Cowiche, Oak Creek, and Rock Creek Units;
- (h) Scotch Creek Wildlife Area: Chesaw, Ellemehan, Scotch Creek, Charles and Mary Eder, Similkameen-Chopaka, and Tunk Valley Units;
- (i) Sinlahekin Wildlife Area: Sinlahekin, Driscoll Island, and Carter Mountain Units;
- (j) Wells Wildlife Area: Indian Dan Canyon Unit;
- (k) Wenas Wildlife Area: Wenas Unit;
- (l) W.T. Wooten Wildlife Area: W.T. Wooten Unit.





DFW Wildlife Area Units

Units Affected by Proposed Rule Making

Major Public and Tribal Land

- USFS Wilderness
- USFS
- National Park
- BLM
- Tribal Land
- DNR
- Other Federal Land
- Other State Land
- Municipal



USFS Risk of Contact Tool

- Models the probability that foraging bighorn sheep will leave their home range to reach allotments, in this case, WDFW Lands
- Foray Probabilities are modeled for the Summer Foray Season and are weighted by distance travelled.
- Based on combination of:
 - Habitat suitability
 - Distance to area
 - Herd composition
 - Population
 - Ratio Rams to Ewes



WAC 220-500-045 (2)

Goats or sheep that have tested positive for *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* or that are displaying signs of pneumonia or other illness will not be allowed on any WDFW-managed lands. Goats or sheep displaying signs of pneumonia or other illness while on department lands must be removed by the animal(s) owner or owner's agent within 48 hours.



WAC 220-500-045 (3)

If a goat or sheep becomes lost, the owner or owner's agent must make every effort to locate and recover it. If the goat or sheep cannot be recovered, the animal's owner or owner's agent shall contact the department by telephone as soon as possible.



WAC 220-500-045 - Penalties

[A violation of this subsection may be punishable under RCW 77.15.160 or other relevant statute depending on the circumstances of the violation.]

RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENT



Process Timeline

- CR101 – Aug 23, 2021
- CR102 – Oct 11, 2022
- SEPA DNS – Nov 16, 2022
- Public Comment Period - Oct 11 to Nov 30, 2022
- Public Hearing,– December 1, 2022
- Director Decision – December 12, 2022



Public Comments Summary

SUPPORT:

- Domestic sheep and goats pose significant risk to bighorn sheep.
- There are other places for pack goats.
- Go farther, ban all domestic animals.

OPPOSE:

- The science behind the ban is questionable.
- Make an exception for pack goats.
- Best management practices instead of ban on pack goats.



Public Testimony

