

Disease Free in the North

Alaska's Dall sheep, Rocky Mountain goats and Muskoxen are at risk from a foreign pathogen called M.ovi that causes pneumonia resulting in major die offs

- Forty-five thousand Dall sheep live in Alaska – more than 25% of all wild sheep in North America.
- Pneumonia in wild Caprinae caused by a foreign pathogen called M.ovi is well documented including mortality in Dall sheep, Rocky Mountain goats and muskoxen.
- M.ovi is commonly carried by domestic sheep and goats including almost five percent of Alaskan domestics
- Alaska has approximately 150 to 200 owners with less than 1500 domestic sheep and goats
- Currently it is completely legal to import M.ovi-infected domestic animals into Alaska
- Alaska's Dall sheep, Rocky Mountain goats and Muskox have not been infected yet by M.ovi based on ADF&G field testing



- Unfortunately, M.ovi can be transmitted by as few as one contact between an infected domestic sheep or goat and one of their wild cousins.
- Once transmitted this bacterium could easily spread between Alaska's contiguous wild sheep ranges....causing a devastating die-off of Alaska's wild sheep and goats
- Restocking just one mountain range with sheep and goats after a major die off could take tens of millions of dollars and more than a lifetime to complete

- There are no magic bullets – no effective vaccines or treatments for M.ovi in either domestic or wild sheep
- The best solution for Alaska's unique circumstances is to go "Disease Free in the North" which really means M.ovi-free domestic herds
- The AK WSF goal is to minimize the impact on domestic producers while implementing this science-based solution to protect Alaska's wild sheep, goats and muskoxen.
- To reduce this impact, the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation and its partners have agreed to pay for the necessary testing of all domestic sheep and goats and to compensate owners for replacement of infected animals and associated incidental costs.



Help AK WSF prevent the needless loss of these iconic Alaska species – support regulatory changes to prevent the importation of infected domestic animals and support the testing of domestic sheep and goats with the mitigation of infected animals.