

# TAKE ACTION!

# PARTNERS

# REDUCING INTERACTIONS BETWEEN

- If you see bighorns near your sheep, contact Colorado Parks and Wildlife **immediately**.
- Always keeping your personal safety a priority, try to increase the separation of bighorn sheep from your domestic sheep to prevent direct contact or commingling.
- Be extra vigilant if you have bighorn sheep near your flock. Consider using more livestock protection dogs and increase flock monitoring to prevent direct contact or commingling.
- Be accountable for your domestic sheep and gather any strays.
- If you see stray domestic sheep, note the location and ear tag or paint brand if present, and contact their owner immediately. You can also contact the Colorado Wool Growers Association or the Colorado Department of Agriculture to assist in locating the owners.



## Colorado Parks and Wildlife

NW Colorado  
(970) 255-6100  
711 Independent Avenue  
Grand Junction, CO  
81505

NE Colorado  
(303) 291-7227  
6060 Broadway  
Denver, CO  
80216

SW Colorado  
(970) 247-0855  
415 Turner Drive  
Durango, CO  
81303

SE Colorado  
(719) 227-5200  
4255 Sinton Road  
Colorado Springs, CO  
80907

Colorado Wool Growers



## Colorado Wool Growers Association

PO Box 292  
Delta, CO 81416  
(970) 874-1433



**COLORADO**  
Department of Agriculture

## Colorado Department of Agriculture

305 Interlocken Parkway  
Broomfield, CO 80021  
(303) 869-9130



# BIGHORN & DOMESTIC SHEEP



# MINIMIZE CONTACT



## KEEP SHEEP POPULATIONS THRIVING!

REPORT BIGHORNS  
near your sheep to CPW

MINIMIZE CONTACT

PREVENT COMMINGLING

BE ACCOUNTABLE  
for your sheep

REPORT STRAY  
domestic sheep to CWGA or CDA

Colorado is rich with agricultural and wildlife resources. Colorado is one of the top lamb and wool producing states in the nation and also has the largest population of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep in the United States.

As with any species, close or direct contact can make it easier to transfer pathogens (bacteria, viruses, or parasites) that can cause disease.

Many factors impact herd health such as stress, predation, nutrition, weather, and population density. Respiratory disease, which is caused by various pathogens, can also be a limiting factor in herd viability and population growth for domestic sheep and bighorn sheep herds.

Studies that force bighorn sheep and domestic sheep to share the same small enclosure have shown that pneumonia-associated pathogens can transfer between the species. These pathogens increase the probability of respiratory disease outbreaks in bighorn sheep.

While those studies are not indicative of actual grazing conditions, **minimizing contact between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep is a responsible course of action to take.**

Proactive management will help sustain the domestic sheep industry in Colorado while also maintaining healthy bighorn sheep populations.



**BIGHORN**



**DOMESTIC**