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WSFA Prescribed Fire Position Statement

Fire's natural role is crucial for sustainability and health of wildlife habitat, particularly in Alberta's mountain regions. The Wild Sheep Foundation of Alberta feels decades of fire suppression have altered the range health and biodiversity, which can negatively impact Bighorn Sheep, through range loss and resource competition.

Scientific data suggests (Van Wagner et al., 2006) wildfire suppression has interrupted the natural process of Alberta's fire-dependent ecosystems, therefore the Wild Sheep Foundation of Alberta sincerely offers an array of support to increase the utilization of prescribed burns throughout Alberta's Bighorn Sheep Range.

The Wild Sheep Foundation of Alberta urgently promotes the implementation of strategic prescribed burns to 1) enhance wildlife habitat, in particular for Bighorn Sheep, 2) disease control and 3) reduction of hazardous fuel loads.

On behalf of the directors and members of WSF Alberta, we would like to thank you for your time and attention.

“Together we can ensure the Future of Wildlife”

Sincerely,
The WSFA Board of Directors

Literature Cited

Van Wager, C.E., Finney, M. A. and Heathcott, M. 2006 Historical Fire Cycles in the Canadian Rocky Mountain Parks. *Forest Science* 52(6) 704-717