

WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES
RESOLUTION



HELICOPTER-SUPPORTED COMMERCIAL RECREATION IN MOUNTAIN GOAT RANGE

WHEREAS, the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies sanctions and recognizes the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council as an international scientific and educational organization comprised of North American wild sheep and mountain goat biologists, managers, researchers, wildlife veterinarians, administrators, students, and advocates; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council has identified helicopter-supported commercial recreation (e.g., glacier overflights/takeoffs/landings, heli-skiing, heli-hiking, heli-trekking) in mountain goat habitat as an emerging issue in the management and conservation of mountain goats in the western U.S. and Canada; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council believes the sensitivity of mountain goats and their habitats call for a conservative approach until more comprehensive, science-based research can be completed; and

WHEREAS, the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council and its members have developed specific interim recommendations to minimize/mitigate adverse impacts from helicopter-supported commercial recreation; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council stand ready to offer their professional advice and assistance with the management of airspace in and over mountain goat habitats, to maintain the integrity of those habitats.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will assist and encourage the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies to help elevate this issue to the attention of the leadership of wildlife, land-management, and airspace regulatory agencies in the United States and Canada.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will support the pursuit of objective, rigorous, science-based evaluation of impacts to mountain goats from helicopter-supported commercial recreation, as outlined in the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council's position statement.

Adopted in Convention
Coronado, California
January 9, 2005