



## *Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council*



### **FOREWORD**

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The papers or abstracts included in these proceedings were presented during the 22<sup>nd</sup> Biennial Symposium of the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council, held November 3-5, 2020. While plans had been made to hold this NWSGC Symposium in April 2020 in Canmore, Alberta, the COVID-19 pandemic along with travel restrictions resulted in not only a ~7-month delay, but we were forced into holding a virtual symposium.

Heart-felt thanks are extended to the sponsors of, and all those participating in, this highly successful 22<sup>nd</sup> biennial symposium. Thanks to all of the session presenters for assembling and sharing relevant new science on wild sheep and goat ecology and management.

Special thanks to Chair Beth MacCallum for leading a dedicated Alberta organizing committee; under very difficult circumstances, Alberta delivered a first-class symposium.

Thanks go to all the committee members who adapted so readily to the fluidly changing timelines caused by Covid-19. Mike Jokinen, Alberta Conservation Association, set up the registration process and oversaw all the refunds when the April date was cancelled; he then started the process again to accept registrations for the November virtual Symposium. The committee made frequent use of the conference call number provided by Anne Hubbs, Alberta Environment and Parks. Anne was instrumental in bringing on Alberta Environment and Parks' IT Team to help run the virtual Symposium and maintaining this vital communication. Rob Harris, Director of Engagement and Education and Jenna Curtis, Engagement and Education Specialist, held training sessions in the use of Zoom for participants and monitored the entire event to ensure technical difficulties were handled smoothly and the program was delivered.

Thanks to Kirby Smith for keeping track of the fund-raising donations and arranging the field trip, BBQ venue and entertainment. When the decision was made to cancel the in-person event the Mount View BBQ and Brewster Bus Lines returned our deposits with no questions. After long negotiations with the Canmore Coast Hotel, Jon Jorgenson finally secured a written agreement to honour our deposit for future bookings, to be used by the NWS&GC or another organization. Thanks to Ken Nowicki for helping with the negotiations. Thanks to Kathreen Ruckstuhl for developing the program, inviting special speakers, and tirelessly updating the draft agenda as the program developed. Kirby Smith's virtual entertainment session was a highlight of the Symposium bringing together musicians from Alaska, Alberta, and Wyoming. Thanks to Jon Jorgenson for arranging for the banking services, tracking expenses, and producing the Proceedings. All committee members were dedicated and a pleasure to work with.

We would like to thank the Alberta Fish and Game Association whose funding went to the printing of these Proceedings.



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These Proceedings were edited by Kathreen Ruckstuhl. Peer-reviewers included Marco Festa-Bianchet, Anne Hubbs, Jon Jorgenson, Margo Pybus and Kirby Smith. Suggested editorial comments were provided to each senior author; senior authors had opportunity(ies) to accept or reject suggested edits, prior to submission of their final manuscripts. Formatted page proofs were forwarded to respective senior authors prior to inclusion into the final proceedings. Final content, particularly verification of literature citations, is the responsibility of the authors.

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Kevin Hurley  
NWSGC Executive Director  
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