



*Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council*  
**25<sup>th</sup> Biennial Symposium**

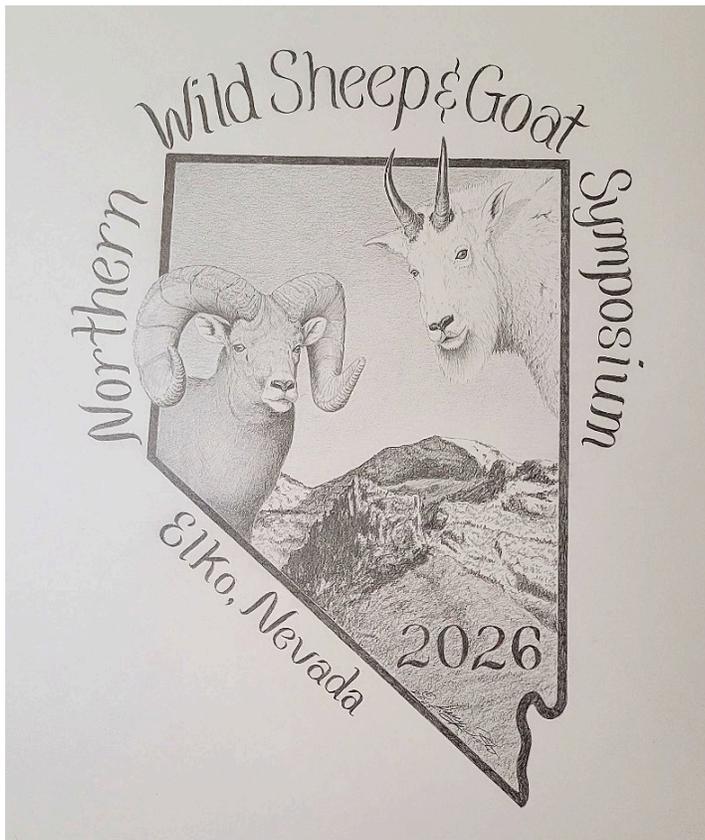
**Elko, Nevada**

**June 15-18, 2026**



**First Call for Contributed Papers and Posters**

**Deadline for Abstract Submission: March 20, 2026**



The Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council (NWSGC) 25th Biennial Symposium will be held at the Elko Convention Center in Elko, NV June 15-18, 2026. We invite submission of abstracts for oral and poster presentations. This symposium is sanctioned by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and is being hosted by Nevada Department of Wildlife. The organizing committee is accepting abstracts reporting on conservation, management, and research focused on thinhorn sheep, mountain goats, California and Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and related mountain ungulates. Sessions will include: Movement Ecology, Management, Restoration, Harvest, Survey Methods, Demography, Nutrition, Habitat, Genetics, Disease and Health, and others suggested by submissions.

**ABSTRACT SUBMISSION**

Submit oral presentation abstracts electronically by March 20, 2026 in Microsoft WORD to: Emily Hobbs, [Emily.hobbs@ndow.org](mailto:Emily.hobbs@ndow.org), including the words NWSGC Abstract in the email subject line.

Most oral presentations will be scheduled for 20 minutes, including 15 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for questions. Oral presentations will be selected based on relevance to session themes, likely interest to a diverse audience of wild sheep and goat managers and researchers, and other criteria of the organizing committee. Platform abstracts

not accepted for presentation may be assigned to the poster session with consent of the submitter.

Submit poster presentation abstracts electronically by March 20, 2026 in Microsoft WORD to: Emily Hobbs, [Emily.hobbs@ndow.org](mailto:Emily.hobbs@ndow.org), including the words NWSGC Poster in the email subject line. Further instructions on poster presentations will follow.

Oral and poster abstracts should follow style guidelines of Journal of Wildlife Management and should include:

Corresponding author name, address, and contact information; Title of presentation; Authorship and Affiliation(s). Abstracts should be  $\leq 250$  words and should include a statement of objectives, description of methods, and summarize results.

Abstracts will be published in the Symposium Program. Authors are **strongly encouraged** to submit an associated manuscript for inclusion in a peer edited Symposium Proceedings, **DUE on December 18, 2026**. Submission instructions for full-length papers will be provided by the Symposium Proceedings editor.

## **SAMPLE ABSTRACT:**

*Richard B. Harris*  
*Washington Department of Fish and*  
*Wildlife 600 Capital Way North*  
*Olympia, WA 98501*  
*(360) 902-8134*  
*E-mail: [Richard.harris@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:Richard.harris@dfw.wa.gov)*

ORAL PRESENTATION REQUESTED

### **Factors Predicting Success of Mountain Goat Reintroductions**

**RICHARD B. HARRIS**, *Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, 600 Capital Way N, Olympia, WA, USA 98501*  
**BRIAN STEELE**, *Department of Mathematics, University of Montana, Missoula, Montana, USA 59812*

**ABSTRACT:** We adopted a retrospective approach to assess factors associated with success of mountain goat (*Oreamnos americanus*) reintroductions into native habitats during 1950-2010. We excluded translocations into areas not historically inhabited by mountain goats, as well as projects best considered augmentations. To supplement published and unpublished literature, we requested data on translocations from staff at state and provincial wildlife agencies likely to have access to information otherwise unavailable. Where data allowed, we estimated post-translocation growth rates,  $r$ . Because most projects did not allow the quantification of growth, we also categorized reintroduction projects as successful or not, reintroduced populations as extant or extirpated, and released animals as having displayed site fidelity or dispersing soon after release. We examined a suite of hypothesized explanatory variables for these outcomes, including number of males, females, juveniles, and kids, as well as number of separate releases, number of source populations (assumed a

proxy for genetic variation), and whether source populations themselves originated as translocations. In contrast to earlier work that suggested no demographic predictor of mountain goat translocation success (Guenzel 1980), we found that the number of adult founders was strongly predictive of long-term success. Releases of just a few animals were relatively likely to have been extirpated within the time durations studied. Evidence suggested that releasing juveniles and kids along with adults produced no improvement in probability of a successful outcome.

### **Notice of Acceptance**

Oral and poster presenters will be notified of their acceptance by **April 17, 2026**.

### **Registration**

All presenters must pre-register by **May 15, 2026**.

Symposium registration is being hosted by Regfox.com (775) 688-1529, [Emily.Hobbs@ndow.org](mailto:Emily.Hobbs@ndow.org). Online registration will open in the near future.

### **For all other questions and information contact:**

Mike Cox (Organization Committee Co-Chair), (775) 688-1556, [Mcox@ndow.org](mailto:Mcox@ndow.org); Scott Roberts (Organization Committee Co-Chair), [Ssroberts@ndow.org](mailto:Ssroberts@ndow.org), (775) 777-2302; or Emily Hobbs, [Emily.hobbs@ndow.org](mailto:Emily.hobbs@ndow.org) (775) 688-1529.

Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council Website: <https://www.nwsgc.net/>

# 25<sup>th</sup> Northern Wild Sheep & Goat Council Symposium

## Elko, Nevada, June 15-18

Hosted by the Nevada Department of Wildlife

### **General Information as of late December 2025**

#### **Daily Activities**

- Monday, June 15 – Registration, exhibitor setup, hotel check-in, and social mixer
- Tuesday – Symposium – welcome & highlights, papers and workshop presentations
- Wednesday - Field Trip to Ruby Mountains and East Humboldt Range to view mountain goats, Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, Himalayan snowcock partridge & beautiful vistas
- Thursday, June 18 – Symposium papers and special session presentations

**First Call for Papers/Abstracts** – being sent out to various email lists; final submissions due March 20, 2026

**Registration** – to open in early March 2026

#### **Venue Information**

- Western Folklife Center - Social Mixer Monday night, downtown Elko; shuttle available for all registrants from Hotel
- Elko Convention Center - 700 Moren Way - Symposium and Meals; 15-minute walk from Hotel for most; vehicle shuttle for those less active
- Maverick Hotel & Casino - 2065 Idaho Street - Lodging

#### **Transportation**

- The nearest international airport is Salt Lake City Utah International Airport (SLC) (<https://slcairport.com/>); Delta Airlines does fly twice a day from SLC to the Elko Regional Airport. Depending on your origin city, the overall price to fly into Elko thru SLC is reasonable. We can help shuttle folks to hotel from regional airport.
- Ground Transportation from SLC - car rental, Greyhound bus, airport shuttle bus, and Amtrak are all available to Elko from 3 to 4.5 hrs trip ( 230 Miles). We may look into renting a shuttle if we have people coming into SLC airport with similar June 15 early afternoon time window.

#### **Contacts**

Emily Hobbs (Symposium Wonder Woman) - (775) 688-1529, [Emily.hobbs@ndow.org](mailto:Emily.hobbs@ndow.org)

Mike Cox (Symposium Co-Chair) - (775) 688-1556, [Mcox@ndow.org](mailto:Mcox@ndow.org);

Scott Roberts (Symposium Co-Chair) - (775) 777-2302, [Ssroberts@ndow.org](mailto:Ssroberts@ndow.org)