



WILDLIFE CONFLICT RESOLUTION — SOUTH SAN JUAN MOUNTAINS, COLORADO

Cornwall and Willow Mountain Grazing Agreements

Where conflicts between livestock and wildlife are prolonged and intractable, the National Wildlife Federation believes that public land grazing retirements can provide an equitable solution for ranchers and wildlife interests. In coordination with federal land managers, we negotiate with livestock ranchers to retire public land livestock grazing allotments that experience chronic conflict with wildlife, especially grizzly bears, wolves, bison and in Colorado, bighorn sheep. This market-based approach recognizes the economic value of public land livestock grazing permits and fairly compensate ranchers for retiring their leases. This approach establishes a new national model for resolving conflicts between livestock and critical wildlife habitat.

CONTACT

Bob McCready
Program Manager
720-340-1209
mccreadyb@nwf.org

Sharon London
Regional Philanthropy
Director
206-577-7173
londons@nwf.org

The Opportunity

The Cornwall and Willow Mountain Forest Service domestic sheep grazing allotments are located in one of the most remote areas of southern Colorado, high in the South San Juan Mountains and west of the city of Alamosa. The two allotments have been used by a sheep ranching family for several generations. But these allotments are also home to bighorn sheep. The range provides ideal habitat for this iconic ungulate and indeed, several bighorn herds rely on the high elevation meadows and peaks found here. Unfortunately, domestic sheep carry a number of diseases that can and often do, decimate entire herds of bighorn sheep. The good news is that NWF has negotiated a financial agreement with the ranching family compensating them to waive their two allotment permits. This will permanently remove the risk of contact between these domestic sheep and bighorns, and is a huge step in protecting domestic sheep bighorns across the entire South San Juan range.



WHERE: South San Juan Mountains, Rio Grande National Forest, Colorado

NEAREST TOWN: Alamosa, CO

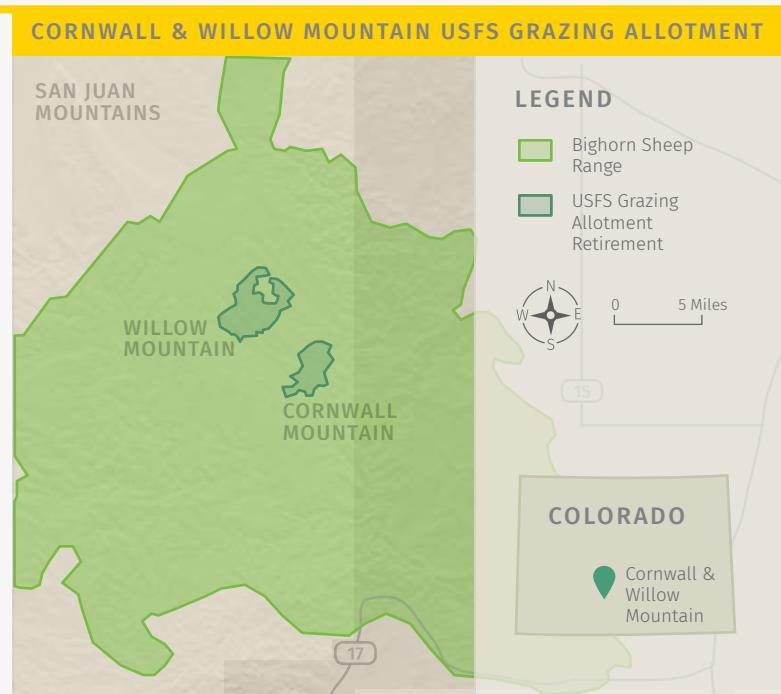
CONFLICT: Domestic sheep in conflict with a native herd of bighorn sheep.

ACRES: 8,715

AUMS*: 780 AUMs Retired

RETIREMENT DATE: April 2019

TOTAL ESTIMATED PRICE: \$82,500



***AUMS (ANIMAL UNIT MONTHS) IS A STANDARD MEASUREMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF FORAGE USED TO FEED A COW/CALF OR FIVE SHEEP IN ONE MONTH.**

PHOTO CREDITS

Page 1: Landscape (Pixabay); Top Bighorn Sheep (Robin Poole); Bottom Bighorn Sheep (Paula Stone Buckner)
Page 2: Bighorn Sheep (Lee Ellsworth)