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## Teton Range Bighorn Sheep Conservation & Stewardship

The Teton Range Bighorn Sheep Working Group invites backcountry users, visitors, and the Jackson Hole community to join in stewardship efforts to protect bighorn sheep in the Teton Range. Learn more about bighorn sheep and conservation efforts, give them space, and encourage others to do the same.

### Why do bighorn sheep need our help?

Bighorn sheep have occupied the Teton Range for millennia but today few remain in the Tetons. They face threats from habitat loss, disease, non-native mountain goats, and disturbance from backcountry winter recreation.

Winter is an especially difficult time for bighorn sheep in the Tetons as they eke out a living in extreme conditions at high elevations where access to food is limited and they are in an energy deficit. The bighorns' strategy is to expend as little energy as possible so that they retain enough energy stores to survive and reproduce.

Unintentional human disturbance during winter causes bighorn sheep to move around more, expending vital energy stores, and avoid areas of otherwise suitable habitat, further stressing the precarious energy balance.

As recreationists and outdoor enthusiasts, we all play a critical role in protecting and conserving public lands and the wildlife that call these places home.



### Did you know?

Bighorn sheep in the Teton Range represent the last remnants of a much larger population that also wintered at low-elevation ranges.

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*Stewardship is the careful & responsible management of something entrusted to one's care*

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COURTESY OF THOMAS CARSON

### How to be a steward of Teton bighorn sheep

- Learn about Teton Range bighorn sheep and conservation efforts at [www.tetonsheep.org](http://www.tetonsheep.org).
- Respect Teton bighorn sheep by avoiding Bighorn Sheep Winter Conservation Zones while skiing in the backcountry.
- Spread the word to your fellow recreationists and community.



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## Conservation Zones

Skiers are asked to voluntarily avoid sensitive bighorn sheep winter habitat areas. A georeferenced map and KML file that can be displayed on smartphone mapping apps are available at [www.tetonsheep.org](http://www.tetonsheep.org).



### Teton Range Bighorn Sheep Winter Zones 2021-2022

US Forest Service R4

Download

Preview

Map Extents



#### Did you know?

During “rut,” rams use their horns to battle for mating rights. In this display, rams face each other, rear up on hind legs and pitch forward at speeds up to 40 mph. The loud crash of horns can be heard up to a mile away.

#### Why should we avoid the Winter Zones?

The Teton Range is big enough for both exceptional skiing and iconic wildlife through responsible recreation and by planning ahead. As backcountry skiing continues to grow in popularity, it’s more important than ever to make recreation decisions that will help protect the herd. The future of our wildlife depends on all of us being good stewards.

The Teton Range Bighorn Sheep Winter Conservation Zones are based on the best available data on where most bighorn sheep currently live during the winter. Avoiding the winter zones will minimize disturbance to the bighorn sheep and thereby help them make full use of available habitat and better conserve the energy stores they need to survive and reproduce.

#### If you see bighorn sheep in the Tetons...

- Keep the wild in wildlife and give bighorn sheep and other animals plenty of space.
- Share your experience and report bighorn sheep sightings in the Tetons by calling 307-739-3558.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife by following all winter closures. Check for closures at:  
[go.nps.gov/tetonclosures](http://go.nps.gov/tetonclosures)  
[www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/btnf/alerts-notice](http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/btnf/alerts-notice)  
[www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/ctnf/alerts-notice](http://www.fs.usda.gov/alerts/ctnf/alerts-notice)