

Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Surveys

Thanks for your help! Besides bighorn sheep, we are interested in any sightings of pika, ptarmigan, lynx, moose, boreal toads, pine marten, wolverine, grizzly bears, Sasquatch and any sign or scat thereof.

- Using the provided observation form, record each group of bighorn sheep observed on a separate line.
- **Number the group** on your **survey form** and if possible, **on a map** at the location you estimate the sheep to be. **Classify** the number of ewes, lambs, yearling ram, yearling ewe, and rams as $\frac{1}{2}$ curl, $\frac{5}{8}$ curl, $\frac{3}{4}$ curl, etc. Indicate the number of animals you were unable to classify and the total number in the group. If you are unsure of the age and sex of any of the sheep you see, record them as unclassified.
- On the form we need the **time** you observed the sheep as well as **your GPS location** and, unless you are very close to them, a **compass bearing to** where the **sheep** were (record this info in the location section). Note whether bearing is magnetic or true.
- If sheep join groups you have already recorded add the new sheep as a separate number and make a note of the group they joined.
- If sheep are seen, please notify the USFS and CPW as soon as possible after you return from the woods.
- If you see any of the other target species noted above, record their location in the comments section or on the back of the observation form.
- If you don't see any sheep, please make a note in the comments section or on the back of the observation form estimating the amount of time you spent in each general area stating that no bighorn sheep were seen.

Be mindful of afternoon lightning storms especially in alpine terrain!

Your GPS should be set to NAD83 and UTM's recorded in NAD 83. Please make a copy of your observation form for your records then return the completed original and any maps you might have.

Return your completed observation forms and maps to the Columbine Ranger District, 367 Pearl St, P.O. Box 439, Bayfield, CO 81122.

Essential equipment:

- Spotting scope (tripod recommended)
- Binoculars
- GPS
- Compass
- Survey form and pencil or pen

If you have any questions or to immediately report bighorn sheep sightings, please contact:

Brad Weinmeister (Terrestrial Biologist, Durango Area Office, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, 375-6714)
Chris Schultz (District Wildlife Biologist, Columbine Ranger District, 799-2425)
Jared Whitmer (District Range Program Leader, Columbine Ranger District, 799-1221)
Matt Janowiak (District Ranger, Columbine Ranger District, 884-1403)