

Partnership Project Success Story

State:	Colorado	FS Funds Used:	\$ 2,400.00
National Forest/Grassland:	White River National Forest Blanco Ranger District	Other Funds Used:	\$
		Partners:	\$ 1,000.00
Project Name:	South Fork Bighorn Sheep Inventory/Flat Tops Bighorn Sheep Management Administration	Total Project Cost:	\$ 3,400.00

Project Purpose/Objectives: The purpose of this project was two-fold: 1) Inventory South Fork bighorn sheep on summer range to document lambing success and numbers of individuals observed in 2006, and 2) Participate in inter-agency meetings, symposiums and discussions on bighorn sheep management in Colorado, conflict resolution on domestic/wild sheep shared range, and bighorn sheep management in the Flat Tops Wilderness Area/proposed CDOW study.

Work Performed: The Blanco Wildlife Technician along with a volunteer (Foundation for North American Wild Sheep project review committee member) hiked to Fowler Bench and observed ewes/lambs in August 2006 using binoculars and a spotting scope. The volunteer further inventoried ram groups along the Eastview Cliffs and Lost Solar Creek on three different days in August 2006. The District Wildlife Biologist attended meetings and participated in discussions on bighorn/domestic sheep interactions. The Biologist also provided input on a Colorado Division of Wildlife project proposal to collar and track Flat Tops sheep in an effort to better understand movements and seasonal ranges.

Benefits: Only by continued cooperation, field inventory and study can we work towards alleviating the deleterious impacts of bighorn/domestic sheep interactions. By participating in these interagency discussions, the biologist can provide input and stay informed of activities around the state and those pertaining directly to the Flat Tops bighorn sheep. On a local level, the Blanco District will attempt to document lamb production and survival of the South Fork herd on an annual basis.

Additional Information:

Partners: Colorado Division of Wildlife and Foundation for North American Wild Sheep project review committee volunteer.

