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*"The primary instrument for Renewable Resource Management in the
Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Traditional Territory."*

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Shannon Miller

Proposed Regulation Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

The Dawson District Renewable Resource Council just recently became aware of the proposed amendments to the Animal Health of Alaska by the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. We realize that the DDRRC has no say in Alaska's decision-making process, but the Yukon does shoulder against Alaska's eastern border and wildlife movements back and forth across the border are common.

The Dawson District Renewable Resource Council is the primary instrument in managing habitat and wildlife within the traditional territories of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation around the Dawson City region. The DDRRC raised the flag to concerns that Movi can pose to our wild sheep populations over ten years ago. Through many meetings and hard work, we are proud to now realize that the Yukon is the front of the line when it comes to dealing with this threat to our wildlife. In January of 2020, the Yukon implemented a Control order that deals with all domestic sheep and goats within the Yukon. We have attached a copy of this Control order with this letter of support.

The DDRRC would like to express our support for Alaska to adopt the DEC's proposal. We have done our part to help protect our wild sheep within the Yukon and since we share a long border line with Alaska and is also a gateway into Alaska; the DDRRC strongly supports the DEC's proposal.

Key points within your proposal that we feel are crucial to ensure protection of wildlife from Movi are as follows.

- support Movi testing of all domestic sheep and goats regardless of age prior to import into Alaska
- support Movi testing through accredited diagnostic laboratories
- support adding Movi to the Reportable Disease List requiring same day reporting



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Thank you for your consideration,

Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Sheep and Goat Control Order

How do I maintain compliance?

The Government of Yukon issued Control Order 2018-001 under the *Animal Health Act* to reduce the risk that wild thinhorn sheep and mountain goats will be exposed to pathogens, especially *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (*M. ovi*), that can be carried by apparently healthy domestic sheep or goats. The Control Order came into effect on January 1, 2020.

What does this mean for people who keep sheep or goats?

Anyone who owns sheep or goats, even a single animal, must comply (or continue to comply) with the conditions in the Order. Sheep and goats must:

- be kept in an enclosure approved by an inspector;
- have permanent identification, e.g., ear tag, microchip;
- be negative when tested for the pathogens of concern;
- be kept below 1,000 meters elevation.

In addition, owners must:

- keep records for every individual sheep and goat;
- report the escape of any sheep or goats from their enclosure, or while being transported;
- apply for and obtain a permit to import sheep or goats into Yukon.

Will my animals still need to be tested?

All domestic sheep and goats are still required to be tested annually. The testing protocol will be determined on a case by case basis, and may depend on factors such as intended animal use and if any new animals were imported to your farm. Fencing will also be inspected each year to ensure it is in proper condition and working order.

What information needs to be included in records I keep?

The control order states that a person who possesses a domestic sheep or a domestic goat must maintain records of it, including documentation of its date of birth, sale, purchase, natural death, or slaughter. A set of record-keeping templates have been designed for use by sheep and goat producers, you can access these templates by contacting the Animal Health Unit.



What is the process for acquiring an import permit?

Anyone looking to import sheep or goats into Yukon must complete an *Application to Import Domestic Sheep or Goats into Yukon* prior to importation. The application must be completed in full, and submitted to the Agriculture Branch for review. A complete application must include:

- Applicant information: applicant must be in compliance with the Control Order;
- Transportation information, including farm of origin and transport manifest;
- A list of all animals being shipped.

After receiving an application, the Agriculture Branch will work with the Animal Health Unit to review the information provided. An in-person or phone meeting with the applicant may be scheduled to discuss their plans to minimise risk and may include an on-farm visit to discuss the quarantine plan and ensure proper containment is in place.

It is anticipated the review and approval process may take up to four weeks and may include case specific conditions.

Once complete and if approved, a permit will be issued to the applicant. The permit conditions will outline specific requirements that must be followed.

What are the import testing requirements?

All imported domestic sheep and goats must be tested after their arrival in Yukon. The specifics of testing will be handled on a case-by-case basis, working directly with the producer. Producers may wish to pre-test animals prior to import by having a veterinarian visit the source flock/herd to collect and submit samples to the lab prior to purchase. Only the cost of the lab test will be covered by Government of Yukon. Producers wishing to have animals tested prior to import must contact the Animal Health Unit or the Agriculture Branch prior to testing.

What happens if *M. ovi* is detected in a sheep or goat I plan on buying?

Animals that are positive for *M. ovi* are considered carriers of this pathogen, and will not be allowed to be imported into Yukon.

What happens if *M.ovi* is detected in a sheep or goat I recently imported into Yukon?

If a domestic sheep or goat tests positive for *M. ovi* after being imported into Yukon, that animal will be ordered destroyed. If an owner is in compliance with the Control Order they are eligible for compensation for any animals ordered destroyed.



Do I need to keep imported sheep and goats separate from other animals on my farm?

It is good farming practice to quarantine any new animals for a period of time when they arrive at a new location. Any imported domestic sheep or goats must be kept in quarantine, away from any other sheep and goats until testing has been completed. The animal health inspector will work directly with the owner regarding quarantine requirements.

Do I need a permit to move domestic sheep or goats within Yukon?

No, a permit is not required to move domestic sheep or goats within Yukon. Owners are required to tag domestic sheep when leaving their farm of origin, and maintain records for up to two years.

Enforcement

Sheep and goat owners are required to comply with the Control Order. Failure to do so is an offense under the *Animal Health Act* and may result in fines and/or the seizure of livestock.

Any owners of domestic sheep or goats who have not contacted Government of Yukon and are not in compliance, or actively working towards compliance, are in violation of the Control Order.

Contact

Animal Health Unit
Government of Yukon
10 Burns Road, Whitehorse, Yukon
867-667-5600 or
1-800-661-0408, ext. 5600
animalhealth@gov.yk.ca

Agriculture Branch
Government of Yukon
Suite 320, 300 Main Street, Whitehorse, Yukon
867-667-5838 or
1-800-661-0408, ext. 5838
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