

**Memorandum of Agreement Between the Nevada Department of  
Wildlife, the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the University of  
Nevada, Reno for the Management of Interactions between Bighorn  
Sheep and Domestic Sheep and Goats.**

**ARTICLE I – AUTHORITIES:**

The Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW), the Nevada Department of Agriculture (NDOA) and the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources (CABNR) at the University of Nevada, Reno possess the authority to enter into cooperative and reciprocal agreements under NRS §501.351, NRS §561.245 and NRS §396.740, respectively.

**ARTICLE II – TERMS OF AGREEMENT**

Domestic livestock and bighorn sheep have co-existed in the Great Basin for more than 150 years. During that time, for reasons that remain poorly understood, disease events have occurred with significant negative impacts on bighorn populations. Accordingly, the Nevada Department of Wildlife; Nevada Department of Agriculture; and the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources at the University of Nevada, Reno (hereafter referred to as the Signatories) agree that:

- a. Domestic sheep and goats and bighorn sheep benefit the economy of Nevada and are important to the cultural and ecological heritage of the state.
- b. Contact between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep and goats presents a risk of disease transmission. Risk is sometimes substantial, but at other times, it is negligible.
- c. The most practical strategy to minimize disease transmission at the present time is to prevent immediate contact between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep and goats.
- d. Many factors that influence the risk of disease transmission, not only between bighorns and domestic sheep and goats, but also between other big game species and the various species of livestock, as well as interactions among these factors, are not completely understood.
- e. Collaborative research, coupled with the active participation of all affected parties, is needed to understand these risk factors and their interactions.
- f. Science-based information can be used to improve disease management for the mutual benefit of producers and the wildlife resource.

The Signatories further agree that other interested organizations may join in this Memorandum of Agreement at any time.

**ARTICLE III – KEY OFFICIALS**

The key contacts for the Department of Wildlife are:

**Primary Contact:**

Dr. Russ Mason  
Game Division Chief  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
1100 Valley Road  
Reno, NV 89512

**Secondary Contact:**

Dr. Mark Atkinson  
Wildlife Health Specialist  
Nevada Department of Wildlife  
1100 Valley Road  
Reno, NV 89512

The key contacts for the Department of Agriculture are:

**Primary Contact:**

Dr. Phil LaRussa  
State Veterinarian  
Nevada Department of Agriculture  
350 Capitol Hill Ave.  
Reno, NV 89502

**Secondary Contact:**

Dr. Anette Rink  
Laboratory Supervisor  
Nevada Department of Agriculture  
350 Capitol Hill Ave.  
Reno, NV 89502

The key contacts for the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources at the University of Nevada, Reno are:

**Primary Contact:**

Dr. David Thain  
State Extension Veterinarian  
University of Nevada  
1664 N. Virginia Street  
Reno, NV 89557

**Secondary Contact:**

Dr. Mike Teglas  
Assistant Professor  
University of Nevada  
1664 N. Virginia Street  
Reno, NV 89557

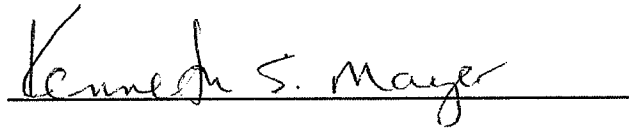
**ARTICLE IV – FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS.** There is no transfer of funds or other financial obligations among the Signatories in connection with this Memorandum of Agreement (MOA).

**ARTICLE V – LIABILITY.** The Signatories agree to assume liability for their own risks associated with activities undertaken in this MOA.

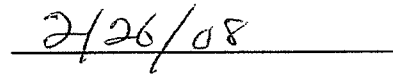
**ARTICLE VI – TERMINATION.** Any of the Signatories may terminate this MOA prior to its expiration date by written notice to the other Parties not less than thirty (30) days in advance of termination. No Party shall be entitled to any compensation for any partial or full termination of this MOA.

**ARTICLE VII – DISPUTES.** All differences among the Signatories concerning this MOA, if not resolved by the key personnel, shall be resolved by the Directors of the Nevada Departments of Wildlife and Agriculture and the Dean, College of Agriculture, Biotechnology and Natural Resources, University of Nevada, Reno.

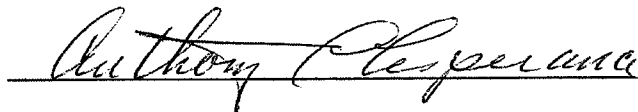
**ARTICLE VIII – EXECUTION.** The following individuals execute this memorandum of agreement on behalf of the Nevada Department of Wildlife, the Nevada Department of Agriculture and the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology, and Natural Resources at the University of Nevada, Reno.



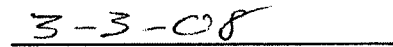
Kenneth Mayer, Director  
Nevada Department of Wildlife



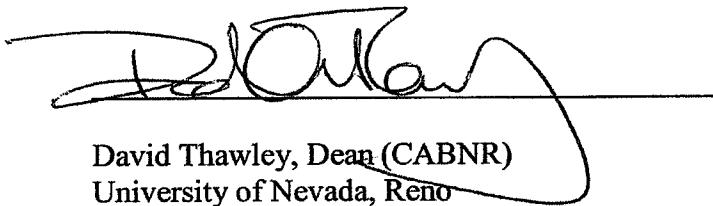
Date



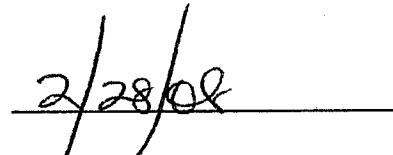
Anthony Lesperance, Director  
Nevada Department of Agriculture



Date



David Thawley, Dean (CABNR)  
University of Nevada, Reno



Date