



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
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Department of Fish and Game

DIVISION OF WILDLIFE CONSERVATION
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To whom it may concern

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is excited to collaborate with Dr. Kerry Sondgeroth and her research group on the proposed project entitled "What is the respiratory microbiome of Bighorn Sheep?"

Dr. Tom Lohuis will provide Dr. Sondgeroth's lab with nasal swab samples from Dall's sheep in Alaska's Chugach and Talkeetna Mountains, in Alaska Game Management Units 14C, 13A, and 14A, and provide funding for sample analysis.

The proposed study is especially relevant to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as recent detection of *Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae* has raised concerns about respiratory disease in Alaskan sheep populations.

This project provides a novel opportunity to assess microbiome composition between different geographic populations and species of bighorn (*Ovis canadensis*) and thinhorn (*Ovis dalli dalli*) sheep in Wyoming, Nebraska, and Alaska. The Dall's sheep will provide baseline data for future sheep microbiome studies.

A specific data sharing agreement will be developed and signed as part of project development.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Lohuis".

Tom Lohuis PhD
Dall's sheep research biologist/Research Coordinator
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