



## Rocky mountain bighorn sheep

*Ovis canadensis*

**Geographical Range:** Reside in the western part of North America north to British Columbia and Saskatchewan, Canada and east to the Black hills of North Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, and New Mexico.

**Habitat:** Prefer fairly dry upland and mountain areas, often occupying the roughest and most precipitous parts there.

**Exhibit Location:** The bighorn sheep exhibit is located in the center of the Zoo, near the guanaco and camel exhibits.

**Physical Characteristics:** The upper parts of the body are brown, fawn, or buff in color with light brown to white underparts. The rump is yellowish-white to white. Their body is stout, their nose is narrow, and their ears are small and pointed. The males have massive spiral horns, broad at the base. Females have only slightly curved horns approximately 4 inches long.

**Diet:** In the wild, bighorn sheep feed for hours in the morning, and continue again at night. They seek out grasses, flowers, young plants, and leaves. In captivity they receive alfalfa hay and grain.

### Did you know?

- In the late fall and early spring, older rams engage in combat for females. During these battles, they rush at one another and butt heads.
- Vulnerable due to trophy hunting by lottery on game preserves, destruction or range, and introduction of disease through domestic sheep.

**Status:** Numbers are stable at this time.