

## *A Commitment to Improve the Colorado Sheep Industry*

Colorado is one of the top lamb and wool producing states in the nation. Black “marker” sheep are a quick, visual reference ranchers use to estimate their total flock numbers on the open range; and are used to help determine if any sheep are missing from the main flock. For example, a rancher might use one marker sheep for every 100 head of white sheep. Black marker sheep serve an important function in ranching operations, and a significant amount of black and blackface wool is produced every year.

Textile manufacturers prefer white wool or use in the garment industry because of its flexibility in the dyeing process; and unfortunately, producers receive little or no money for black wool despite its high fiber quality. Creating a market for black wool products will help producers receive a higher price for this portion of their wool clip. *High Country Woolens* works with the limitations of the dyeing process for black fiber, and black wool is manufactured into our beautiful natural and dark colored, washable wool blankets.



## *From the Flock to You*

*High Country Woolens* blankets are heirloom-quality blankets that will provide your family with warmth and comfort for years to come. Colorado is known for its spectacular mountains and rich Western heritage. *High Country Woolens* blankets are made from 100% natural Colorado wool. Our ranchers' sheep are raised with plenty of fresh mountain air and sunshine. These blankets come straight from the flock to you so we can offer our Colorado wool blankets at an affordable price. Purchasing a *High Country Woolens* blanket enables you to enjoy a unique part of Colorado's ranching heritage; plus *High Country Woolens* blankets are washable!

## *Why Wool?*

Wool garments provide excellent protection against hypothermia. Wool is a hygroscopic fiber, which allows it to absorb moisture and perspiration. Therefore, a wool garment will keep a layer of dry air next to the skin, which in turn helps hold in body heat. As wool absorbs atmospheric moisture, the hydrogen bond of water is broken and chemically reacts with molecules in the wool to generate heat.

## *Caring for Your Wool Blanket*

Your *High Country Woolens* blanket is washable. Wash separately, wash in cold water, and tumble dry on medium heat.



*High  
Country  
Woolens*

## *Washable Wool Blankets*



*100%  
Natural Colorado  
Wool*

Produced by  
Colorado's Premier Range Stewards:  
The Colorado Wool Growers Association

*“Eco-Friendly” Forage Management  
For Our Western Rangelands*

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## Colorado Ranches: Habitat Partners for Wildlife

Colorado's ranching heritage is a legacy that has preserved and maintained our state's great open spaces; and provides vast amounts of privately owned habitat for Colorado's publicly owned wildlife.

Nearly 1/2 of Colorado's 66 million acres are farms and ranches. Privately owned ranches provide a rich and diverse habitat for our state's wildlife.

Privately owned farm and ranch land provides critical winter habitat for deer and elk herds as winter snows push big game out of the high country.



### "Eco-Friendly" Forage Management

Sheep grazing provides federal land managers with an eco-friendly forage management tool for our western rangelands.




Grazing helps control noxious weeds, which are threats to both public and private land. Noxious weeds displace native plant species and destroy wildlife habitat.

Grazing provides brush and undergrowth control which can reduce the risk of wildfires.

Sheep grazing has helped regenerate ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, radiata pine, sugar pine, and western hemlock forests in the United States and Canada.



### Good News For Wildlife

-  Wildlife benefits from stock ponds and forage management plans that incorporate livestock grazing
-  Sheep grazing used to reduce unpalatable noxious weeds creates better habitat for deer and elk by improving conditions for native forage.
-  Predator management for sheep can benefit wildlife species such as sage grouse and black-footed ferrets.

## Protecting Our Heritage

As human population growth and development continue to encroach upon prime wildlife habitat, predators become increasingly concentrated in habitat grazed by sheep and cattle, which ultimately result in more predator attacks on livestock. Increased predator populations also have a negative impact on survival rates for offspring of a variety of wildlife species.

At a significant expense to producers, Colorado sheepmen are active in using non-lethal predator control measures such as guard dogs, additional herders, and fencing to protect their animals. Despite these precautionary measures, loss of sheep due to predators is one of the largest costs of the sheep industry. Annual losses per individual operation often range from 5 to over 20 percent of all lambs. It is important for Colorado citizens to understand that predator management is not about *eliminating* predator populations; it is about *targeting* depredating animals; *protecting* private property from publicly owned wildlife; and effectively managing wildlife populations within the limitations of habitat carrying capacities.

