# Effects of environmental change on wildlife health in the Muskwa-Kechika

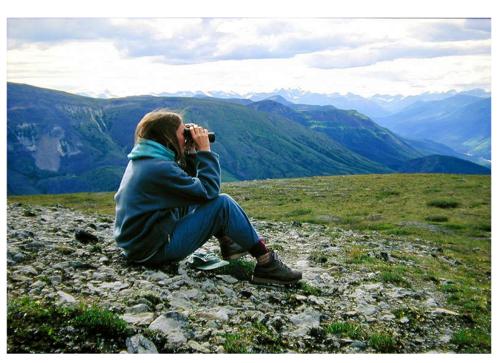
Heather Bryan, Assistant Professor Muskwa-Kechika Research Chair January 13, 2021 heather.bryan@unbc.ca







# **UNBC-MKMB** Partnership & Research Professorship



- Partnership since 1999
- Support and implement research that builds on the past and looks to the future in meeting educational, management, economic, and social needs of the M-KMA and northern British Columbia
- Endowment fund to support research





## **Research Questions**

- How do prescribed burns influence recruitment, physiology, and health in stone sheep and elk?
- What factors are driving ungulate declines?
- How is/will climate change affect wildlife in the M-K?



#### Prescribed burn research

- Collaboration with Alicia Woods, Ridgeline Wildlife Enhancement
- Examine effects of prescribed burns on sheep and elk health (stress and reproductive hormones in pellets and urine), diet (pellets), and recruitment





## **Research Questions**

- How do prescribed burns influence recruitment, physiology, and health in stone sheep and elk?
- What is driving ungulate declines?
- How is/will climate change affect wildlife in the M-K?



#### Goals for 2021

- Learn more about research priorities in the M-K
- Meet with Kaska Dena, Treaty 8, and Carrier-Sekani Nations to discuss research priorities, existing programs, and potential for collaboration on wildlife research
- Discuss research questions with various groups (e.g., Northeast 7B Wildlife Round Table, others)



### **Discussion**

- Research questions?
- Who to talk with?

