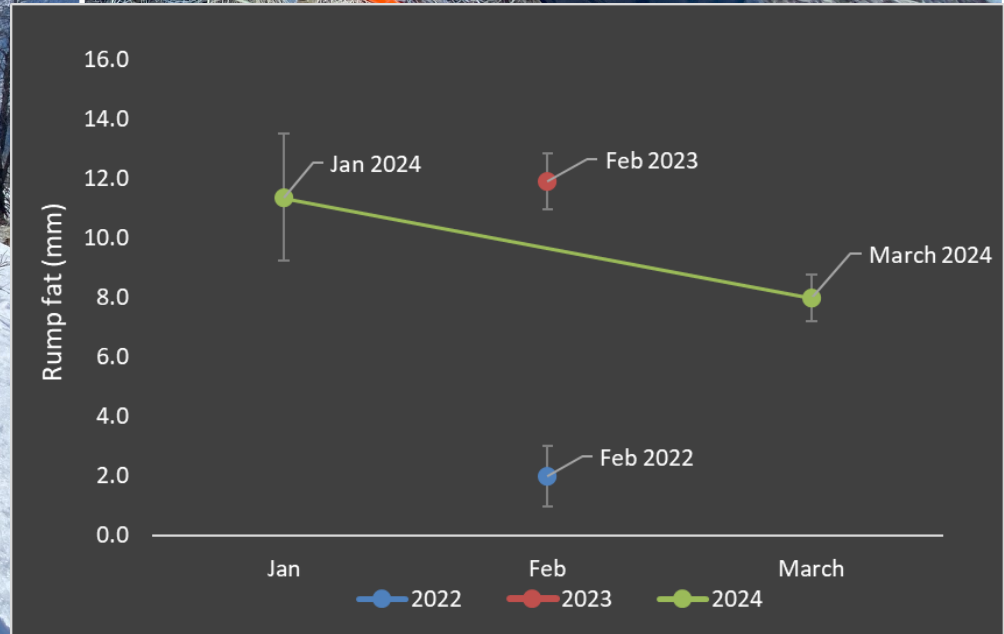


# Finlay-Russel Stone's Sheep Project

## March 2024 Update



In March, our fieldwork entailed the second round of capture and body conditioning of Stone's sheep in the Finlay-Russel, Tatlatui, and Swannell Ranges. We were able to successfully capture and sample 16 sheep, including one newly collared ewe in a low-density area where, until now, we haven't been able to deploy collars.



The graph above illustrates the average rump fat measurements over the first three years of our study with 95% confidence intervals. With this data, we are starting to understand how fat levels change from early to late winter, as well as the yearly variations. We eagerly anticipate receiving pregnancy results in late spring, enabling us to correlate these findings with reproduction and also snow-pack conditions.



In early March, Landon attended Science Week in Tsay Keh Dene, where community members had the opportunity to learn about the ongoing research in their territory. Additionally, students at the local school, ranging from kindergarten to grade 5, had the chance to discover what makes sheep so special. They even ventured outside to do some animal tracking using telemetry, and they did great!



During a community dinner, we took the opportunity to screen the Wild Sheep Society of BC film "Transmission" in order to raise awareness about wild sheep health. Thank you Helen S. and Robin R. for participating in the Q&A session afterward!

**Thank you!**  
 On behalf of the project team, we would like to thank Chu Cho Environmental and Chu Cho Industries for hosting Science Week and allowing us to attend such an important community event. We hope to be back again next year!

**What's next?**  
 With one year of early and late-winter body fat measurements complete, we can start planning our summer vegetation sampling work. Working with Kwadacha Nation and Tsay Keh Dene Nation, this sampling will start in early July and help us determine why fat levels may vary between individuals.



Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship



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