

### **Approaching sheep bands**

When approaching sheep bands, always be thoughtful of the herders and dogs tasked with the care of the band. What to remember here is that we want to disturb the band, herders, and dogs as little as possible. When you have located the sheep, stop and look for the herder and as many dogs as you can see. If herders are with the band, begin to approach and call out to the herder before getting too close. Identify yourself as a project member, and make your way to the herder. If no herders are present, move to the up wind side, if possible, and slowly approach, stopping at the outer edge of the band. The dogs may notice you and will begin to approach cautiously or bark. Stand still and let the dog approach you. Most dogs will remain a safe distance from you. These dogs are working and you should not interact with or try to pet them. Try to act bored or disinterested and the dog should lose interest allowing you to set up fladry or Foxlights. Work quietly and with as little impact on the dogs and sheep as possible. Try not to move sheep as you work your way around the band installing the non-lethal tools being used. Return to the edge of the band and observe the sheep and dogs and then slowly move away.