



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Wallowa-Whitman
National Forest

P. O. Box 907
Baker City, OR 97814

Reply to: 2210

Date: January 16, 1997

Idaho Woolgrowers Association
Mr. Stan Boyd, Executive Director.
P. O. Box 2596
Boise, ID 83701

RECEIVED

MAR 11 1997

I. W. G. A.

Dear Mr. Boyd:

The effort to transplant bighorn sheep into historic habitat in Hells Canyon is a cooperative project involving the States of Idaho, Oregon, and Washington, The Foundation for North American Wild Sheep, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. The Hells Canyon Bighorn Sheep Restoration Committee (the committee) is interested in having the support of the woolgrowers industry for this effort to repopulate parts of Hells Canyon with bighorn sheep.

The Committee understands that bighorns may occasionally migrate outside of their designated range and come into contact with domestic sheep. These bighorns will be considered "at risk" for potential disease transmission and death. There is also the potential for an exposed bighorn to leave the area and spread disease to other bighorn sheep. Under these conditions, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Washington Department of Wildlife will assume the responsibility for bighorn losses and further disease transmission in their respective states. The three Departments will also take whatever action is necessary to reduce further losses of bighorn sheep without adversely impacting existing domestic sheep operators. The enclosed map clearly delineates the project area within the Hells Canyon complex. Bighorns straying into currently active sheep allotments will be considered "at risk" by all of the Committee entities. This means that the Committee recognizes the existing domestic sheep operations in or adjacent to the Hells Canyon complex, on both National Forest and private lands, and accepts the potential risk of disease transmission and loss of bighorn sheep when bighorns invade domestic sheep operations.





Idaho Woolgrowers Association

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The Committee will make every effort to keep interested parties informed about actions being considered by the Committee in its effort to repopulate Hells Canyon with bighorn sheep. We will provide all health information gathered on bighorn sheep to the woolgrowers industry and other interested parties.

Sincerely,

R.M. Richmond
USDA Forest Service, Wallowa-Whitman NF

Jan. 16, 1997
Date

Tom Rink
Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game

JAN 23, 1997
Date

Jamie W. Green
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Feb. 26, 1997
Date

Dan C. Sullivan
Washington Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Feb 21, 1997
Date

Alton E. Thomas
Bureau of Land Management

Jan. 28, 1997
Date

Duncan B. Delahant
Foundation for N. American Wild Sheep
Structure
Enclosure

March 4, 1997
Date

cc: Forest Supervisor, Fayette NF
Forest Supervisor, Nez Perce NF

