



WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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October 21, 2021

Name
Address
City, ST ZIP

Dear _____,

As you know, the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department) is in the process of evaluating the re-introduction of bighorn sheep into the Sweetwater Rocks area. This evaluation is the result of a local landowner's request to the Wyoming Game and Fish Commission to consider the merits of reintroducing bighorn sheep into this portion of Wyoming. The assessment and any potential subsequent actions will be in strict compliance with the "State-wide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Plan" (Plan) pursuant to Wyoming State Statute 11-19-604.

Department personnel have had conversations with many area landowners and livestock producers to gather input and to gauge landowner opinions should bighorn sheep be reintroduced. During these meetings, some producers voiced concerns that bighorn sheep management and conservation may be used to curtail or reduce livestock grazing on public lands. Further, some producers expressed concern that federal land managers may alter the condition and terms of their grazing permits in the interest of bighorn sheep population viability. Our next step will be to hold public meetings at 6PM on the following dates:

November 4-Jeffrey City Fire Hall, Coyote Dr, Jeffrey City, WY

November 9-Game and Fish Lander Regional Office, 260 Buena Vista Dr, Lander, WY

Additionally, this letter reaffirms our support for working ranches and multiple use of public lands as well as reaffirms our support for managing bighorn sheep and evaluating proposed transplants in accordance with the Plan. Should bighorn sheep be used as a surrogate by federal land managers to adjust allotment stocking rates or otherwise reduce livestock grazing in the Sweetwater Rocks Cooperative Review Area, the Department will remove the wild sheep. I have also contacted the Bureau of Land Management regarding these concerns and emphasized our commitment to remove bighorn sheep should they take actions that negatively impact livestock grazing if their decisions are based on bighorn sheep management.

The Department contracted with the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources at the University of Wyoming to conduct a habitat assessment of the area. Based on bighorn sheep habitat preferences in areas similar to the Sweetwater Rocks, we do not anticipate that habitat will be limited. Wildlife managers from the Lander Region will share the results of this work during the public meetings in November.

Thank you for your involvement in this issue. If you have any questions regarding our efforts to evaluate a bighorn sheep transplant please contact Lander Wildlife Management Coordinator Daryl Lutz at (307) 332-2688.

Sincerely,

Brian R. Nesvik
Director