



## WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT

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October 13, 2021

Kim Liebhauser, Acting State Director  
Wyoming Bureau of Land Management  
5353 Yellowstone Rd  
Cheyenne, WY 82009

Dear Ms. Liebhauser:

The Wyoming Game and Fish Commission (Commission) recently received a request from a local landowner to consider reintroducing bighorn sheep into the Sweetwater Rocks area. The Commission directed the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department) to evaluate the proposed transplant in accordance with the "State-wide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Plan" (Plan) pursuant to Wyoming State Statute 11-19-604.

Per the steps outlined in the Plan for this Cooperative Review area, Department personnel have conducted several meetings and held conversations with area livestock producers to gauge their level of support for reintroducing bighorn sheep into the Sweetwater Rocks. Based on these meetings, it is clear landowners have concerns bighorn sheep conservation may be used in the future as a means to reduce permitted stocking rates, to alter existing or future standards and guidelines, or to otherwise curtail grazing on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) allotments.

This letter reaffirms our support for livestock grazing on public land in the Sweetwater Rocks area. Recent habitat assessments conducted by the Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources indicate that based on wild sheep preferences in similar areas, habitat in this proposed transplant area would not be limited. Should the Commission decide to move forward with a bighorn sheep transplant, they would do so with no interest or intent to impact domestic livestock grazing. The Commission supports multiple use and domestic livestock grazing as one of the many uses on federally managed lands. Should reintroduced bighorn sheep be used as an instrument to negatively impact public land grazing in the area, the Department will remove bighorn sheep.

Over the years, the Department has had an excellent working relationship with the BLM on previous bighorn sheep releases to the Ferris-Seminole herd unit. I appreciate your staff's work on this proposal over the past several weeks and we look forward to working with your office as we continue to evaluate the proposal to transplant bighorn sheep into the Sweetwater rocks. If you have any questions, please contact Doug Brimeyer at 307-286-2468.

Sincerely,

Brian R. Nesvik,  
Director

BN/dl