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Comments: I'm opposed to expanding any Wilderness boundaries on the Ashley National Forest to increase acreage that is inaccessible to users. In order to maintain a healthy forest ecosystem the resources need to be used. If used, those resources will renew and not become a loss and create a build up of unusable resources and potential fuel for wildfires. Under very limited situations and with special considerations would I be in favor of changing any Forest Property to Wilderness status.

I'm concerned with implications that may come from Bighorn Sheep being Species of Concern on the ANF. I understand the issues between Bighorn and domestic sheep commingling and the potential for disease and conflict. As the Bighorn sheep migrate and expand their range, the focus needs to be on utilizing the resources and enhancing habitat in areas where there is no or little opportunity of conflict between the wildlife and domestic livestock. I oppose limiting or restricting livestock grazing on the ANF to accommodate Species of Concern and if grazing is affected, those affected by SOC need to be notified and engaged to develop a management plan or investigate other solutions.

I'm also concerned about the potential for wildfires in the ANF, with the build up of fuels. I would be in favor of accessibility to dead standing or dead fallen trees for forest users to harvest the resources. By allowing users to remove the fire fuel buildup, it will allow the other trees and plants in the forest ecosystems to establish or re-establish in the areas where prior to harvest were choked out. I'm also in support of livestock grazing to manage fuel sources, as the resource is renewable, livestock grazing is a very efficient annual tool to manage fires and fuel.