



File Code: 1570 (218)

18-04-19-0010

Date: SEP 18 2019

Dana M. Johnson, Attorney
Wilderness Watch, Idaho Office
P.O. Box 9623
Moscow, ID 83843

CERTIFIED-RETURN
RECEIPT REQUESTED

Dear Dana Johnson:

This letter is in response to your January 19, 2018, objection to the draft decision notice and finding of no significant impact for the Helicopter Landings in the Twin Peaks, Lone Peak, and Mount Timpanogos Wilderness Areas to Capture and Collar Mountain Goats and Bighorn Sheep Project Environmental Assessment on the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

You are the lead objector for the objection. Other parties to the objection include Kirk Robinson of the Western Wildlife Conservancy; Carl Fisher of Save Our Canyons; Jason Christensen of Yellowstone to Uintas Connection; and Ashley Soltysiak of the Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club.

In a July 31, 2019, email to the Forest Service, the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources withdrew its request to use a helicopter to capture mountain goats and bighorn sheep in the Twin Peaks, Lone Peak, and Mount Timpanogos wilderness areas. The Division of Wildlife Resources believes that its needs can be addressed using other methods of sampling.

A final decision notice and finding of no significant impact will not be signed for the project. In the future, should the Division of Wildlife Resources resubmit a proposal for use of helicopters to capture mountain goats and bighorn sheep in wilderness areas, the public will have opportunities to comment and to review draft documents, as per the Forest Service NEPA process. If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Pete Gomben, administrative review and litigation coordinator, at pete.gomben@usda.gov or (801) 625-5069.

Sincerely,

MARY FARNSWORTH
Deputy Regional Forester

cc: Elise Boeke, Steve Beverlin, Pete Gomben, David Whittekiend, Paul Cowley

