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First name: Brent

Last name: Sawyer

Organization: Back Country River Guides

Title:

Comments: Carol, I am writing and asking to please allow the use of helicopters within the Wilderness Area on the Salmon River to catch and test bighorns for M.Ovi. (Idaho Fish and Game Collaring Project#61527). This step is critical to maintain a healthy Bighorn Sheep population. They are a very important historical species to Central Idaho and not allowing helicopter intrusions in the wilderness area for a sheep study would be irresponsible. The Wilderness Area that is within the study area already receives moderate to heavy fixed wing traffic due to the numerous backcountry strips. So, noise pollution is already present and not a very good argument. The "intrusions" that would incur due to the helicopter flights go into the "intrusion bin" and never go anywhere from there. I have worked in Wilderness areas all over the nation and the "Wilderness Act" is very much open to interpretation. Please allow these intrusions for the sake of Conservation. Thanks, Brent Sawyer