

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/2/2025 7:00:00 AM
First name: Melynda
Last name: Beam
Organization: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Title: Biological Scientist
Comments: United States Environmental Protection Agency

Region 10

Seattle, WA 98101

October 1, 2025

Tara Umphries, Forest Supervisor

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

United States Forest Service

215 Melody Lane

Wenatchee, Washington 98801

Dear Tara Umphries:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has reviewed the U.S. Forest Service's July 2025 Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Forest Plan Amendments for Planning and Management of Domestic Sheep and Goat Grazing Within the Range of Bighorn Sheep. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act, the EPA is required to review and comment publicly on any proposed federal action subject to the NEPA's environmental impact requirement.

The DEIS evaluates the reasonably foreseeable environmental effects of domestic sheep and goat management strategies that include interim adaptive, risk-based, and no grazing approaches. The DEIS thoroughly addresses EPA's prior scoping comments, and the EPA particularly appreciates the efforts to align the proposed project with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy and mitigate impacts to aquatic resources through project design and monitoring.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the DEIS for this project. If you have questions about this review, please contact Melynda Beam of my staff at 206-553-6114 or at beam.melynda@epa.gov, or me, at 206-553-1774 or at chu.rebecca@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Chu, Manager

NEPA Branch