

April 2, 2023

S. Martinez Livestock is a 100-year-old food and fiber-producing family farm located in Moxee, Washington. In addition to supporting the comments previously submitted by the American Sheep Industry, we as a multigenerational family business would like to respectfully submit the following:

No bighorn sheep have died due to domestic sheep grazing on these allotments and there are on record in other states bighorn sheep die-offs without any domestic sheep in the vicinity.

The science of bighorn die-offs, which is being used as the catalyst to eject domestic sheep grazing from the forest service is, at times, specious. More time and research are needed before irreversible decisions are put into motion.

With climate change research ongoing, the use of managed grazing programs to reduce fine fuels can potentially help manage forest fire programs. This has already proven beneficial in California.

A decision against domestic food and fiber production is a decision against national security, which is what our family attempts to alleviate 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

A decision against domestic food and fiber production on these Forest service allotments is a decision to terminate our family sheep farm as no other feasible grazing exists. We have the longest history of grazing on these allotments with an impeccable reputation. We believe the bighorns and domestic sheep can align on the same range.

Respectfully submitted,

Mark & Nick Martinez  
S. Martinez Livestock  
Moxee, WA