

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/23/2022 8:45:11 PM

First name: Glen

Last name: Slyke

Organization:

Title:

Comments: [External Email]Comments on 2022 IDFG Sheep Collaring Project (Salmon and Red River Ranger Districts)

[External Email]

If this message comes from an unexpected sender or references a vague/unexpected topic;

Use caution before clicking links or opening attachments.

Please send any concerns or suspicious messages to: Spam.Abuse@usda.gov

Dear Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest,

Please accept my comments in opposition to the 2022 Idaho Fish and Game (IDFG ) Sheep Collaring Project (Salmon and Red River Ranger Districts).

I urge the Forest Service (FS) to reject Idaho Fish and Game's (IDFG) request to use helicopters to pursue, capture, and collar up to 20 bighorn sheep in the Gospel Hump and Frank Church-River of No Return Wildernesses, including the Salmon Wild and Scenic River corridor. Another 15 sheep would be captured outside of Wilderness.

Helicopter pursuit and capture would cause undue stress on the bighorn sheep, and violate federal law and regulations, because:

1. The use of helicopters in Wilderness is prohibited by the Wilderness Act and the Forest Service's Wilderness implementing regulations.
2. The use of helicopters in the Wild and Scenic River corridor is also prohibited by the Frank Church-River of No Return Management Plan.

This project has nothing to do with managing Wilderness and its native bighorn sheep population must be rejected.

Federal judges have admonished the FS and IDFG for their rushed implementation of unlawful helicopter projects in Wilderness in the past, with the courts warning the FS that it "must proceed very cautiously here because the law is not on their side if they intend to proceed with further helicopter projects in the [Wilderness]."

It's wrong for the agency to authorize another helicopter project despite prior decisive legal opinions on past helicopter use for similar wildlife collaring projects.

The Forest Service needs to uphold the law and reject IDFG's latest proposal for motorized intrusion and intentional trammeling of the Gospel Hump and Frank Church-River of No Return Wildernesses in Idaho. IDFG needs to conduct this project outside of Wilderness before proposing to go into Wilderness.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Glen Van Slyke

2039 Milford St

Houston, TX 77098

713-529-0314