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Organization:

Title:

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

[External Email]

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Dear Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest,

Regarding the 2022 IDFG Sheep Collaring Project (Salmon and Red River Ranger Districts)....

I strongly urge the Forest Service (FS) to reject Idaho Fish and Game's (IDFG) request to use helicopters to pursue, capture, and collar any bighorn sheep in or around the Gospel Hump and Frank Church-River of No Return Wildernesses.

The use of helicopters in Wilderness is prohibited by the Wilderness Act and the Forest Service's Wilderness implementing regulations. You are supposed to be protecting Wilderness as wilderness---without intruding. The use of helicopters in the Wild and Scenic River corridor is also prohibited by the Frank Church-River of No Return Management Plan.

It's very wrong for your agency to consider authorizing this harmful project following 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.

Please uphold the responsibilities of the Forest Service and protect our wildlife from stress, collaring and tracking.

Sincerely,

Maro Lorimer

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