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First name: Eugene

Last name: Craig

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,

Please accept our comments on the 2022 IDFG Sheep Collaring Project (Salmon and Red River Ranger Districts).

My family and I want 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 are scheduled to be captured outside of Wilderness.

You must be aware of the fact that the use of helicopters in Wilderness is prohibited by the Wilderness Act and the Forest Service's Wilderness implementing regulations, and this project is fundamentally antithetical to protecting Wilderness in its untrammelled state. The use of helicopters in the Wild and Scenic River corridor is also prohibited by the Frank Church-River of No Return Management Plan. Enough said!

Federal judges along with the courts warned the FS that "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 entertain authorizing another such 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. Keep helicopters out of our Wilderness areas and stop violating the law! Whoever is making these decisions has rocks in their head and needs to be removed from the decision-making process. People who violate the law are outlaws!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Eugene Craig

PO Box 24524

San Jose, CA 95154

408-352-5732