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

I guess the Forest Service managers in Idaho are slow learners or choose to ignore a judge's ruling regarding the use of helicopters to pursue, capture and collar bighorn sheep in designated wilderness areas. Ignoring the rule of law seems to come naturally for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game and the spineless Forest Service.

I urge the Forest Service to show some courage and reject the Idaho Department of Fish and Game's request to use helicopters to capture bighorn sheep in both the Frank Church River of No Return, Gospel Hump Wilderness areas and the Salmon Wild and Scenic River corridor.

Even if Idaho ignores the unnecessary stress placed on sheep when captured, helicopter use in designated wilderness is prohibited under provisions of the Wilderness Act. Additionally, the use of helicopters in the Wild and Scenic River corridor is also prohibited by the Frank Church-River of No Return Management Plan.

Federal judges apparently take a very dim view of government agencies rushing or expediting projects which might violate the Wilderness Act, such as the use of helicopters. I strongly suggest that the Forest Service once again heed the judges decisive legal opinions and proceed slowly and cautiously regarding the wildlife collaring projects.

The Forest Service must uphold the law and reject Idaho's latest proposal for motorized intrusion into the Gospel Hump and Frank Church-River of No Return Wildernesses in Idaho. Conduct the collaring project OUTSIDE of wilderness!

Sincerely,

Richard Saretsky

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