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

Helicopter "pursuit and capture" kills. Helicopters in Wilderness is prohibited by the Wilderness Act and the Forest Service's Wilderness regulations. This project is the opposite of Wilderness protection. Helicopter use in the Wild and Scenic River corridor is prohibited by the Frank Church-River of No Return Management Plan. This project has nothing to do with managing Wilderness.

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 entertain authorizing another such project following decisive legal opinions on past helicopter use for similar wildlife collaring projects.

The Forest Service must uphold the law. REJECT IDFG's proposal for motorized and damage to MY Gospel Hump and Frank Church-River of No Return Wildernesses in Idaho. Its dishonest, DESTRUCTIVE and UNAMERICAN.

IDFG should try to conduct this "project" outside of Wilderness before proposing to go into Wilderness.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Richard Burnett

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