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National Forest



Draft Amendment to the Land and Resource Management Plan

Photos by David Ede

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Chapter III. Management Direction

FOREST-WIDE MANAGEMENT DIRECTION

Wildlife Resources

Management Direction for Wildlife Resources		
Type	Number	Direction Description
Objectives	Big Game	
	WIOB13	Maintain separation between bighorn sheep on the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area (NRA) and bighorn sheep that use the Hells Canyon NRA from domestic sheep and goats permitted to graze on the Payette National Forest.
	WIOB14	Based on annual surveys, assess changes in bighorn sheep habitat use and, if needed, adjust the geographic population range (GPR) using appropriate modeling tools such as Clifford et al. 2007. Refer to Wildlife, Appendix E, Figure E-0 for habitat maps.
	WIOB15	Evaluate landscape changes on the Payette National Forest, such as large-scale fire events, that could affect bighorn sheep source habitat, and determine if there is a need to change existing management strategies.
	WIOB16	Using an adaptive management approach, provide opportunities for bighorn sheep restoration and expansion across source habitat in the GPR.
	WIOB17	Expand or enhance hunting opportunities, per Executive Order #13443, through management of wildlife habitat on the Payette National Forest.
Standards	Big Game	
	WIST08	To allow for restoration of the species and recalculate and remap the bighorn sheep GPR when three or more bighorn sheep are located within the 90 to 100 percentile contours. (Refer to Wildlife, Appendix E, Figure E-4 for GPR map.)
Guidelines	Big Game	
	WIGU15	To recalculate and remap the bighorn sheep GPR utilizing modeling procedures such as Clifford et al. 2007.
	WIGU16	To periodically update the bighorn sheep GPR and remap it every 5 years if no new sightings of bighorn sheep are found within the 90 to 100 percentile contours.

Non-Native Plants

Management Direction for Non-native Plants		
Type	Number	Direction Description
Standards	NPST13	Domestic sheep or goats shall not be utilized as a management tool for weed control within the GPR of bighorn sheep.

Rangeland Resources

Management Direction for Rangeland Resources		
Type	Number	Direction Description
Goals	RAGO07	Manage domestic sheep and goat allotments to provide reasonable assurance of separation and lack of contact between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep and goats.
	RAGO08	Upon establishment of a 1-mile “sheep-free” zone, manage domestic sheep and goat operations to maintain the integrity of the sheep-free zone.
Objectives	RAOB04	Incorporate adaptive management strategies designed to help prevent contact between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep into domestic sheep Allotment Management Plans and/or Annual Operating Instructions.
Standards	RAST10	Immediately move permitted domestic sheep and goat bands at least 1 air mile from the outside boundary of the GPR during the permitted grazing season when three or more bighorn sheep, within a timeframe of 5 years or less, are located between the 90 and 100 percentile contours of the bighorn sheep GPR. No domestic sheep or goats will be permitted to graze within this 1-mile “sheep-free” zone. If permitted domestic sheep and goats cannot be kept from this zone, grazing on the allotment shall be prohibited.
	RAST11	Domestic sheep and goat grazing outside of the bighorn sheep GPR may only be permitted where separation or no contact with bighorn sheep can be maintained. If separation cannot be maintained, permitted domestic sheep and goat grazing shall be prohibited.

Chapter IV. Implementation of the Forest Plan

This text will supplement the Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy section, page IV-4, in Chapter IV, Implementation of the Forest Plan, of the 2003 Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

Monitoring and Evaluation Strategy

Annually survey bighorn sheep populations within the GPR to determine if there is a need to remodel the GPR or if the GPR is adequate to support a viable population of bighorn sheep over time. Focus the survey efforts at the following locations:

1. Within the mapped GPR and, in particular, between the 90 and 100 percentile contours
2. In areas outside the GPR that are important for lambing and rearing
3. In areas outside the GPR where contiguous habitat exists
4. In areas where suspected pioneering by bighorn sheep is occurring

This table will supplement Table IV-2, page IV-6, of the Monitoring Elements section in Chapter IV, Implementation of the Forest Plan, of the 2003 Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Table IV-2. Monitoring Elements

Activity, Practice, Or Effect To Be Measured	Monitoring Question	Indicator	Data Reliability	Measuring Frequency and Recommended Method	Report Period
Terrestrial species of special interest—bighorn sheep	Are bighorn sheep present between the 90 percent and 100 percent contours of the GRP?	Number of sightings in a 5-year period	High	Annually, via survey of selected areas	Annually
Terrestrial species of special interest—bighorn sheep	Are bighorn sheep present outside the 100 percent contour of the GPR?	Presence of bighorn sheep	High	Annually, via survey of selected areas suspected of having high fidelity, such as lambing areas	Annually

References

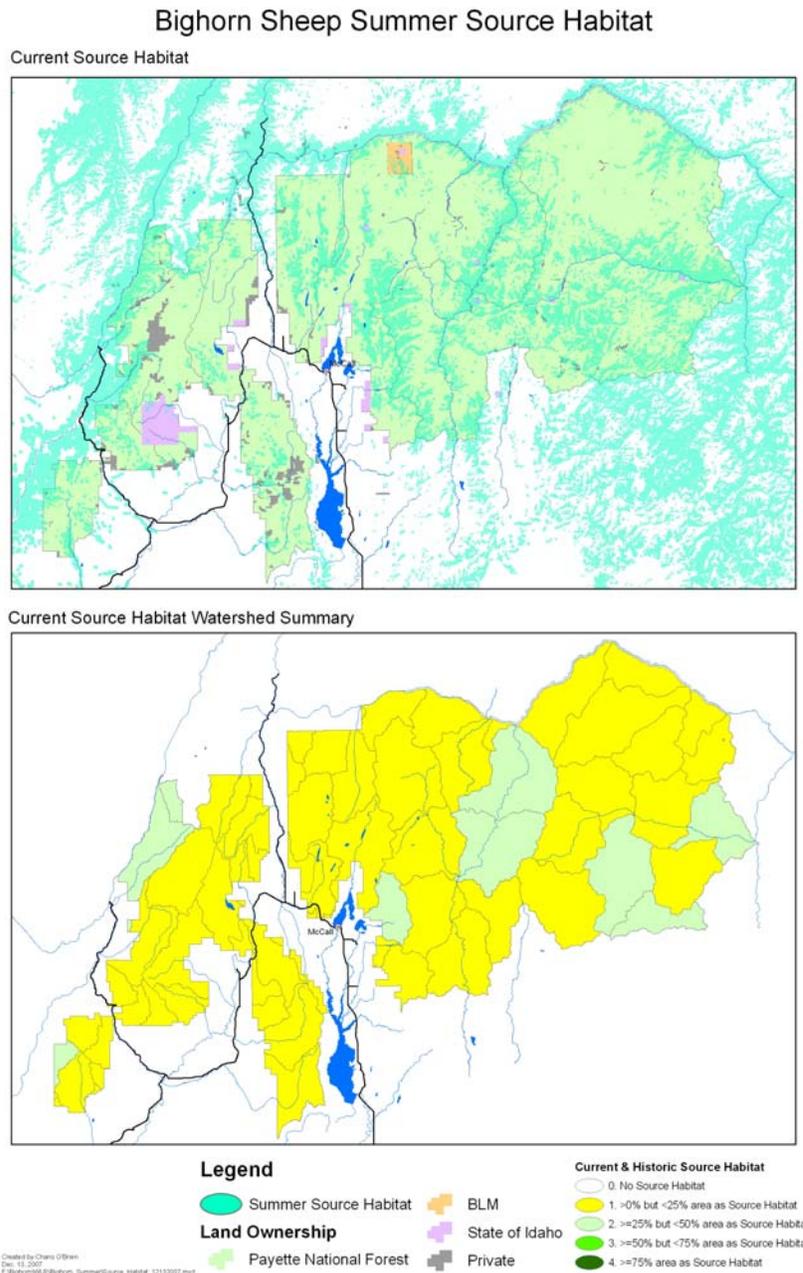
- Clifford, D. L., B. A. Schumaker, T. R. Stephenson, V. C. Bleich, M. Leonard-Cahn, B. J. Gonzalez, W. M. Boyce, and J. A. K. Mazet,** 2007, *Modeling Risks of Disease Transmission from Domestic Sheep to Bighorn Sheep: Implications for the Persistence and Restoration of an Endangered Endemic Ungulate*, Final Report, Davis, California: U.C. Davis Wildlife Health Center, Department of Fish and Game Resource Assessment Program
- USDA Forest Service,** 2003, *Southwest Idaho Ecogroup Land and Resource Management Plans: Final Environmental Impact Statement*. Ogden, Utah: USDA Forest Service, Intermountain Region

Appendix E. Wildlife and Fish

This figure will supplement the Changes in Source Habitat for Selected Species section, page E-4, within Appendix E of the 2003 Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

CHANGES IN SOURCE HABITAT FOR SELECTED SPECIES

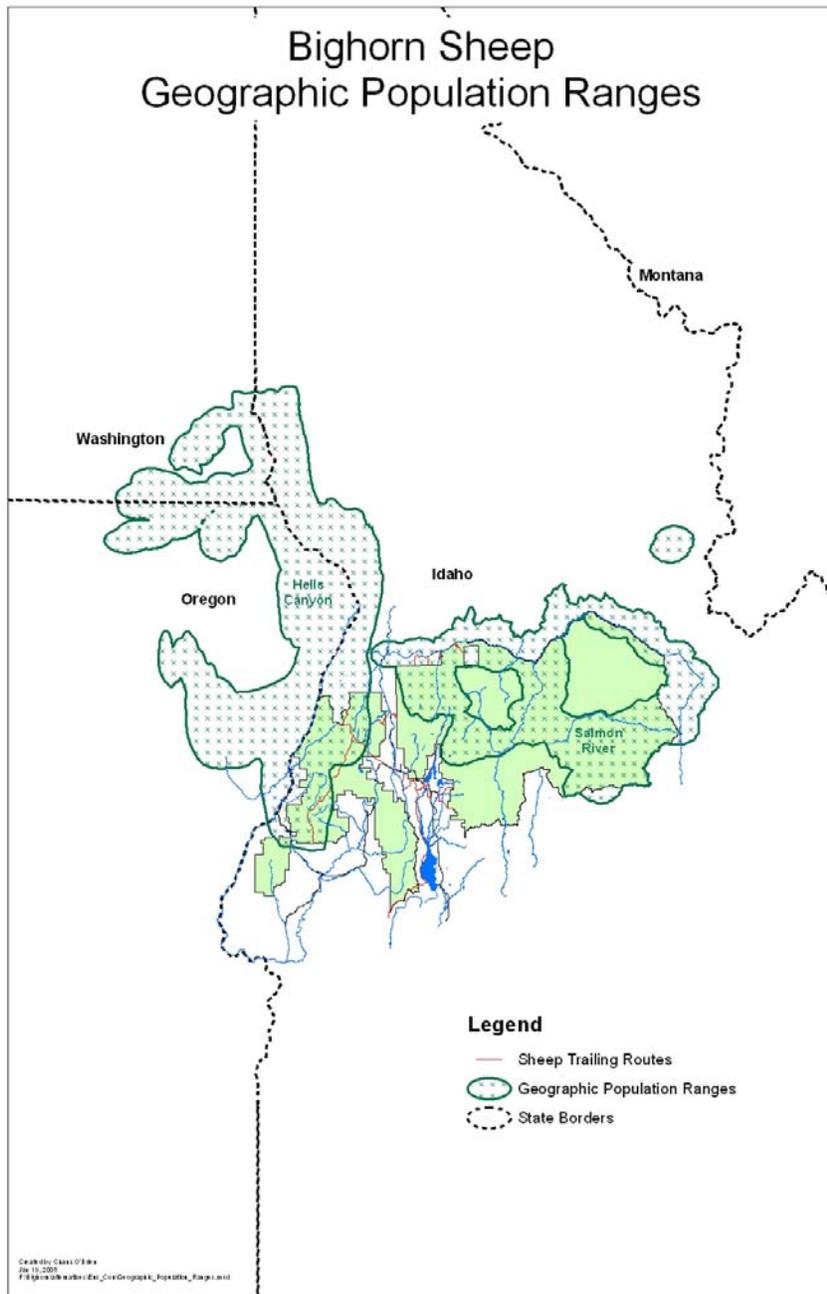
Figure E-0. Bighorn Sheep Summer Source Habitat



This figure will supplement Appendix E of the 2003 Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

BIGHORN SHEEP GEOGRAPHIC POPULATION RANGES

Figure E-4. Geographic Population Ranges of Bighorn Sheep that Overlap the Payette National Forest



Appendix H. Legal Requirements and Administrative Framework for Forest Planning and Resource Management

This text will supplement page H-13 of Appendix H in the 2003 Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE FRAMEWORK BY RESOURCE

Wildlife Resources

Facilitation of Hunting Heritage and Wildlife Conservation, Executive Order #13443— Directs the agency to evaluate trends in hunting participation and implement actions that expand and enhance hunting opportunities for the public; establish short- and long-term goals to conserve wildlife and manage wildlife habitat to ensure healthy and productive populations of game animals in a manner that respects state management authority over wildlife resources and values private property rights; and seek the advice of state fish and wildlife agencies and, as appropriate, consult with the Sporting Conservation Council (SCC) in regard to Federal activities to recognize and promote the economic and recreational values of hunting and wildlife conservation.