

Emergency Response Plan
For
Potential Situations Regarding
Bighorn Sheep and Domestic Sheep and Goats
Payette National Forest
2003 Land and Resource Management Plan

March 29, 2011

Updated May 14, 2012

Updated July 9, 2012

Updated May 24, 2013

Introduction

The 2003 Payette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (LRMP) was amended on July 20, 2010 to include direction that provides habitat for a viable population of bighorn sheep on the Forest. Implementation of this amendment began on August 20, 2010. Unless scientific advances are made, identified habitat must be free of domestic sheep and goats for it to be available to bighorn sheep. Until such advances are found and the revised direction amended, these actions will remain in effect. Direction in the amendment instructs the Forest to evoke emergency management response measures:

- Implement emergency actions when bighorn sheep presence is detected within 10 km of active domestic sheep or goat grazing or trailing. Actions will be taken to ensure separation between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep or goats. RAST10;
- Domestic sheep and goat grazing may only be permitted where separation from bighorn sheep can be maintained. If separation cannot be maintained, permitted domestic sheep and goat grazing shall be prohibited. RAST11;
- Reassess the risk for contact when bighorn sheep are located within previously undocumented areas or new herd units are documented. WIST08;
- Domestic sheep or goats shall not be utilized as a management tool for weed control where domestic sheep grazing is not suitable or where contact with bighorn sheep is possible. NPST13.
- To maintain separation, when bighorn sheep are found within 10 kilometers of an active domestic sheep and goat allotment, implementation of emergency actions for domestic sheep and goat grazing could include:
 1. Moving domestic sheep back to an identified ridgeline within the allotment;
 2. Notifying the Idaho Department of Fish and Game of the bighorn location;
 3. Removing domestic sheep and goats from the allotment; or
 4. Not authorizing domestic sheep or goats on an allotment or driveway for the current grazing season. RAGU13.

Instances in which an emergency response could be implemented include the following situations but is not limited to:

1. Bighorn sheep are found within the suitable area of an active domestic sheep and goat allotment or trailing route;
2. Bighorn sheep are found within 10 kilometers (6.21 miles) of the suitable area of an active domestic sheep and goat allotment or trailing route;
3. Domestic sheep or goats are found missing from a band;

4. Domestic sheep or goats stray and are found outside of their authorized allotment area and into areas deemed unsuited for domestic sheep or goat grazing; or
5. Domestic sheep or goats are found on the Payette National Forest after the authorized season of use.

The response to each emergency will vary depending on the specific conditions of and location of each incident.

Along with a communication protocol, this document further defines what, when and how the responses will be carried out. This emergency response plan may be made specific to each permittee and attached to the Payette Forest domestic sheep and goat grazing permits and referenced in the Annual Operating Instructions.

In concert with the annual monitoring requirements for the Amendment (2010), documentation of any emergency actions that are taken and the outcomes of such actions will be disclosed in the Payette National Forest Annual Monitoring Report. Items reported include the presence of bighorn sheep in areas of risk, the presence of bighorn sheep in or near the suitable areas of active domestic sheep and goat allotments, the maintenance of separation, and whether or not domestic sheep or goats strayed from permitted grazing allotments.

Communication Protocol

For separation between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep and goats on the Forest to be successful, it is critical that communication between the herder and permittee, and the permittee and the Forest Service occur as prescribed if either bighorn sheep are spotted in or near domestic sheep or goat bands or if domestic sheep or goats are lost or found straying away from either the band or the permitted allotment area. This protocol identifies the equipment required for the herders and/or permittees to have in their possession while on their active domestic sheep and goat allotments on the Payette National Forest. It also contains the contact information for both the permittee and the Forest Service. This information may be updated as needed on an annual basis to account for items such as a change in personnel and/or permittee information.

Required Equipment

With each band will be either a Satellite phone, cell phone, radio or other similar and effective communication device (ex. SEND or SPOT device) that is in functioning order. Functioning order is defined as operable and not “dead” or having battery life adequate to make contact.

Emergency Response Measures

The Emergency Response Measures contain 3 main components:

1. What constitutes an emergency,
2. What will be the potential responses and how will they be carried out; and
3. Who makes the decision to respond and by what method.

An emergency response is defined as:

Domestic Sheep:

1. Domestic sheep or goats are missing from the band during the grazing season;

2. Domestic sheep or goats are found off of the authorized allotment area or trailing route during the grazing season or
3. Domestic sheep or goats are found on the Payette National Forest outside of the authorized season of use.

Bighorn Sheep:

1. Bighorn sheep are found within the suitable area of an active domestic sheep and goat allotment or trailing route;
2. Bighorn sheep are found within 10 kilometers (6.21 miles) of the suitable area of an active domestic sheep and goat allotment or trailing route;

Potential Responses – Domestic Sheep

Domestic sheep or goats have been known to become separated from the band for a variety of reasons. For example, notice of their disappearance may come from a herder or a member of the public may see a domestic sheep or goat left out on the range sometime after the grazing season has ended. These situations are listed below with appropriate response strategies to follow. In the case of an individual public discovering a stray domestic sheep or goat and notifying the Forest Service, the Forest Service (the residing Ranger over the allotment or their designated acting responsible official) will attempt to verify the sighting based upon information received. Verification of the domestic sheep or goat sighting will be conducted by Forest Rangeland Management Specialists or Range or Wildlife Technicians. If the Fish and Game is contacted, it is expected that they will contact the responsible Forest Service official for that allotment. The employees completing the verification will be experienced in observing domestic sheep or goats. Verification processes are improved with photos of the animals or signs of fresh scat. It will be most helpful if the location of scat or an animal(s) can be verified with photos that show recognizable locations and/or a GPS location. If the stray domestic sheep or goat sighting is not confirmed within 3 days, the District Ranger or their designated acting from the responsible official list will determine how to proceed and when to consider the sighting unverified. The following protocols will be in effect depending on whether the sighting is during or after the grazing season.

If straying or missing sheep are no longer on NFS land, the Responsible Official will take no action as they have no jurisdiction on non NFS lands.

Herders:

Permittees will develop a system for accounting for their bands. In the event of one or more domestic sheep or goats missing from the band, permittees will use their accounting system to identify from which band those sheep are missing. Other indicators of where the missing sheep or goats came from will be the location of the missing sheep or goats and the current location of bands authorized on the Payette National Forest.

The permittees will do on/off counts for all bands authorized onto the Payette NF. The Forest Service is planning to be present when the sheep are trailed onto and off of the Forest. Permittees will be required to document losses (predators, poisonous plants, etc), removals (sick, injured,

etc), additions (births, general additions to band, etc), to bands. Each band will have a logbook associated with its activity. The numbers of missing sheep will be documented in a logbook provided to each permittee by the Forest Service. This logbook will be turned into the District Office or given directly to range management employees or designated responsible official (shown on the responsible official list) at least every 7 to 14 days. The District Ranger will be discussing the logistics of logbook due dates with the permittee at the Annual Operating Instructions meeting. This logbook will provide for accountability on the number of domestic sheep and goats grazing on the Payette National Forest throughout the grazing season. The logbook will be filed in the office of the Range Program Manager.

Herders constantly have eyes on the band, know the “personalities” of the band of domestic sheep and goats, and are aware when something is wrong in that band of domestic sheep and goats. Herders frequently count marker sheep throughout the day. If a marker is missing, it is likely that a small group of sheep are missing. Also, herders look for lambs that are bleating excessively; this indicates a possible missing mother. Herders will look for ewes that have a big bag, this can indicate a missing lamb. After a predator, weather, or other event where a band of sheep may be disrupted, herders will do marker or full counts to see if any domestic sheep or goats are missing from the band. This usually will occur the morning after the event. The level of count depends on the event that led to the scattering of the band. The above mentioned methods are a basic list of what can be done on the ground and is not all inclusive of actions the herder takes on the ground. As new information becomes available or new methods are developed, different or additional methods may be added into the Annual Operating Instructions for the allotment.

Scenario 1 - Domestic Sheep or Goats are missing from the Band during the grazing season:

If herders discover one or more domestic sheep or goats missing from the band the herder will contact the permittee using any of the required communication equipment to notify the permittee that the response plan is being activated. The timeframe for the herder to contact the permittee must be within 12 hours of the realization that sheep are missing from the band.

When communication is established with the Permittee or foreman, the herder must report:

1. The current location of the domestic sheep and goats band;
2. The last known time before the sheep or goats were observed missing; and
3. Where he will begin his search for the missing sheep or goats.

The herder will relay any information that may help in the finding of the missing sheep such as reporting the weather or if there were any predators in the area, etc. **The herder must contact the permittee.** After the herder contacts the permittee, the herder will proceed with a search for the missing sheep.

This search should begin at the last known location of the missing sheep and will then proceed to the area with the highest potential for a domestic sheep or goat to occur. The permittee will use any means possible to find the domestic sheep or goats, either through hiking, driving, or

horseback. The Responsible Official will assess if personnel and resources are available to assist in the search and may assist if possible.

Permittee:

1. The permittee will contact the District Ranger or delegated Responsible official within 3 hours of receiving the herder's notification. Leaving a phone message is acceptable. The permittee will report the time he received notification from the herder. The District Ranger or delegated Responsible official can receive calls between the hours of 7am and 9pm. If the permittee receives notification from the herder between the hours of 9pm and 7am, the permittee has until 8am to report the missing sheep.
2. After receiving the call from the herder the permittee will immediately begin to organize additional herders or workers to help in the search of the domestic sheep or goats. If the call is received at night, the search will begin at daybreak the next morning.
3. The search will conclude when the missing domestic sheep or goats are located, dead or alive, or when the District Ranger or delegated Responsible official terminates the search.
4. The permittee will immediately report search results to the District Ranger. The permittee will inform the District Ranger or delegated Responsible official of any further information the herder has relayed such as the location of the herd and herder, where the herder has begun his search, weather, and presence of predators, etc. which will help in the location of the missing sheep.

Forest Service:

The District Ranger or delegated Responsible Official will notify the Range Program Manager of the missing domestic sheep or goats and may provide additional help if needed and as personnel are available (to be determined by District Ranger or delegated Responsible Official).

1. The comprehensive search will conclude when the missing domestic sheep or goats are located, dead or alive.
2. If the domestic sheep or goats are not located within three days, the District Ranger (or delegated Responsible official) will determine whether to discontinue the search or proceed. If the missing sheep are found within the suitable area within the allotment, the District Ranger or delegated Responsible official will discuss the event with the permittee and determine the course of action (i.e. predation event, weather, or tendency to stray). It may be determined based on the circumstances that the previously missing sheep may have to be removed from the NFS lands.
3. At the end of the three days, the District Ranger or delegated Responsible Official will inform the permittee of the decision.
4. The Forest Service will document all emergencies.

Scenario 2 – Domestic Sheep or Goats Found off of the Permitted Allotment Area During the Grazing Season

Herders:

If permittee employees discover sheep are outside of the allotment boundary or that they are in an area that is unsuitable for domestic sheep grazing (maps of unsuited areas are provided with the

AOIs), the herder will contact the permittee using any of the required communication equipment. The timeframe for the herder to contact the permittee must be within 12 hours of sheep or goats being located off allotment or in unsuited lands. (This is the same action as scenario 1.)

When communication is established with the Permittee or foreman, the herder must report:

1. The location of the domestic sheep and goats band that was outside of the allotment boundary or in an area that is unsuitable for domestic sheep grazing; and
2. The authorized location where they were moving the domestic sheep to.
3. After the herder contacts the permittee, he will move the sheep to an authorized area.

Permittee:

If one or more domestic sheep or goats are found off of the permitted allotment area or grazing on lands classified as unsuited for domestic sheep or goat grazing:

The permittee will contact the District Ranger or delegated Responsible official within 3 hours of receiving the herder's notification. Leaving a phone message is acceptable. The permittee will report the time he received notification from the herder. The District Ranger or delegated Responsible official can receive calls between the hours of 7am and 9pm. If the permittee receives notification from the herder between the hours of 9pm and 7am, the permittee has until 8am to report the band or portions of the band that has gone outside of the authorized area.

Forest Service:

As the 2010 decision was phased in, suitable area boundaries were adjusted. It is anticipated that livestock and herders will learn these new boundaries as they adjust to the current year suited area.

The Forest Service will notify the permittee immediately as to the decision to remove the stray domestic sheep or goats from the Forest. In accordance with Forest Plan RAGU11, removal of the domestic sheep or goats by the permittee from the Payette National Forest must occur within 24 hours of the District Ranger or delegated responsible official notification of removal. Documentation of animals outside of the authorized allotment on NFS lands or in the area unsuited for domestic sheep grazing will be kept by the herder in their log book and reported every 7 to 14 days. The Forest Service will document all incidents.

If the Forest Service discovers domestic sheep or sign of domestic sheep in unsuited areas, the Forest Service will contact the herder and permittee and instruct them to immediately move bands back on the suited acreage of the allotment.

Scenario 3 – Domestic Sheep or Goats Found on the Payette National Forest Outside of the Permitted Season of Use

Forest Service:

The Range Program Manager will contact the appropriate permittee and State Fish and Game officials of the stray domestic sheep or goats with the last known location and number of animals observed. The District Ranger (or delegated Responsible official) will be informed of the

situation within 3 hours from time of notification by the Range Program Manager. The Forest Service will assist in the recovery effort with the permittee within 24 hours as available; however, it cannot be assumed that domestic sheep or goats found on the Forest belong to Payette National Forest permittees. The District Ranger or Range Program Manager will inform Idaho Fish and Game of the situation. If the recovery effort is not successful or the domestic sheep or goats do not belong to a permittee and/or the owner cannot be determined, the District Ranger or Range Program Manager will contact USDA Wildlife Services in Idaho. USDA Wildlife Services has informed the Forest Service they will then take action.

Documentation of the stray sheep, if it is owned by an NFS permittee, will be noted in the permit file and disclosed in the annual monitoring report.

Permittee:

Begin recovery efforts of the stray domestic sheep or goats within 24 hours of notification if the stray domestic sheep or goats belong to the permittee. Permittee has 48 hours from time of notification to complete the recovery effort. Permittee must report to the District Ranger or delegated Responsible Official when the recovery effort is completed or if the recovery effort was not successful.

Potential Responses to Emergencies – Bighorn Sheep

Bighorn sheep are known to foray long distances from their core heard home range. Forays of up to 35 kilometers (21.75 miles) have been recorded on the Payette National Forest during the season of use for permitted domestic sheep and goat allotments via bighorn sheep sightings and radio-locations. Although these longer distance forays appear to be rare, they lead to greater risk of contact and subsequent disease transmission. The selected alternative (O-Modified) for the FP amendment includes monitoring (see 2013 Monitoring Plan) designed to observe bighorn sheep should they foray to within 10 kilometers (6.21 miles) of the suitable area of an active domestic sheep and goat allotment and to detect them in previously undocumented areas. Scenarios and situations that will trigger an emergency response are discussed below.

Three areas of potential concern will be surveyed. Within each of these areas are emphasis areas where survey work would be concentrated (see Appendix E of the FEIS). Refer to the 2013 Monitoring Plan for further details.

A bighorn sheep sighting is considered verified or confirmed by the Responsible Official if:

1. Made by a wildlife biologist or person experienced with observing bighorn sheep;
2. Documented by a photo if the location of the photo can be determined; or
3. Documented by sign i.e. fecal sample tested for bighorn sheep DNA.

When a sighting is not confirmed, a biologist or other experienced observer will search the area to attempt to verify or deny the sighting.

Scenarios where Bighorn Sheep Are located in Authorized Area within Active Domestic Sheep and Goat Allotments.

Scenario 4 - If bighorn sheep are detected on the allotment, prior to turnout:

1. The observer will notify the Forest Wildlife Biologist and District Ranger or delegated Responsible official from the list as soon as possible, but at a minimum by 8 am the morning following the sighting if the sighting is made by an employee, permittee or herder. A sighting made by a member of the public will be verified as practical after it is reported.
2. The District Ranger or delegated Responsible official will notify the permittee that may be affected by the sighting as soon as possible, but no later than 12 hours after the detection is reported. A documented phone call or letter will be provided within 12 hours of a verified sighting. Leaving a phone message will serve as appropriate notification.
3. As soon as possible, taking into account the on date, the Forest Service will reanalyze the risk for contact to determine the new area suitable for domestic sheep and goat grazing. The analysis will provide the information to determine the suited area following the addition of the new data. The Responsible Official will determine if livestock turnout may be authorized prior to completion of a new suited grazing analysis.

Scenario 5 - Bighorn Sheep Located on the Allotment in the Authorized Area during the Grazing Season

Forest Service Sighting

1. The observer will contact the District Ranger or delegated Responsible official and the Forest Wildlife Biologist as soon as possible. The District Ranger (or delegated Responsible official) can receive calls between the hours of 7am and 9pm.
2. The Forest Supervisor, District Ranger, or delegated Responsible official assigns a Forest Service employee to continue to monitor the movements of the bighorn sheep.
3. The District Ranger or delegated Responsible official notifies the permittee within 12 hours of notification of the sighting and instructs them to immediately begin to relocate the domestic sheep and goat band to an area which increases the distance to at least 2 kilometers (1.24 miles) between the band and the bighorn sheep.
4. The District Ranger or Responsible Official will consider how to implement RAGU13 to maintain separation and may require the band of domestic sheep and goats to be moved to a new location. This will determine the area available for grazing in the short term, until the new risk for contact analysis is completed by the Forest Service.
5. The new risk for contact analysis will provide the information to determine the area suitable for domestic sheep and goat grazing and will be noted in the permit. The need for the immediate separation is to prevent any initial contact between the two sheep

species. The Forest Service will reassess the risk for contact within two weeks of the bighorn sighting.

6. In some cases, the additional 10 kilometers (6.21 miles) may result in little or no area left on the allotment to utilize.

Permittee/Permittee Employee Sighting

If a bighorn sheep is sighted within 2 kilometers (1.24 miles):

1. The herder will immediately move the domestic sheep and goat band to ensure separation between the band and the bighorn sheep. The herder will then contact the permittee using any of the required communication equipment after the domestic sheep have been moved. The District Ranger or delegated Responsible official must be notified immediately by the permittee.
2. Leaving a phone message is acceptable. The permittee will report the time he received notification from the herder. The District Ranger or delegated Responsible official can receive calls between the hours of 7am and 9pm. If the permittee receives notification from the herder between the hours of 9pm and 7am, the permittee has until 8am to report the missing sheep.
3. The District Ranger or Responsible Official will consider how to implement RAGU13 to maintain separation and may require the band of domestic sheep and goats to be moved to a new location. This will determine the area available for grazing in the short term, until a new risk for contact analysis is completed by the Forest Service.

If a bighorn sheep is sighted greater than 2 kilometers (1.24 miles) to 10 kilometers (6.21 miles):

1. The herder will contact the permittee using any of the required communication equipment. The timeframe for the herder to contact the permittee must be within 12 hours of initial sighting. The permittee will contact the District Ranger or delegated Responsible official within 3 hours. Leaving a phone message is acceptable. The permittee will report the time he received notification from the herder. The District Ranger or delegated Responsible official can receive calls between the hours of 7am and 9pm. If the permittee receives notification from the herder between the hours of 9pm and 7am, the permittee has until 8am to report the missing sheep.
2. The District Ranger or Responsible Official will consider how to implement RAGU13 to maintain separation and may require the band of domestic sheep and goats to be moved to a new location. This will determine the area available for grazing in the short term, until a new risk for contact analysis is completed by the Forest Service.

For both situations, when communication is established with the Permittee or foreman the herder must report:

- a. The location of the domestic sheep and goat band at the time the bighorn sheep was sighted;
- b. The number of bighorn sheep counted and their location;
- c. The current location of the domestic sheep and goat band; and
- d. The direction in which the bighorn sheep went.

Scenario 6 - Bighorn Sheep Located on the Allotment in the Authorized Area after the Grazing Season

Forest Service wildlife biologists/technicians will survey priority source habitat within the allotment 1-2 weeks after domestic sheep and goats are removed from the allotment. If bighorn sheep are detected, the Forest Service will reassess the risk for contact to provide information to determine the new area suitable for domestic sheep and goat grazing. Permittees will be notified of the bighorn sheep sighting within 24 hours of the initial sighting. Changes in the suited area will be noted on the grazing permit the following year.

Scenarios where Bighorn Sheep are reported within 10 Kilometers of Authorized Area within Active Domestic Sheep and Goat Allotment.

Scenario 7 - Bighorn Sheep Reported within 10 Kilometers Prior to Livestock Turnout

1. The observer will notify the Forest Wildlife Biologist and District Ranger or delegated Responsible official as soon as possible, but at a minimum by 8 am the morning following the sighting if the sighting is made by an employee, permittee or herder. A sighting made by a member of the public will be verified as practical after it is reported.
2. The District Ranger or delegated Responsible official will notify the permittee that may be affected by the sighting as soon as possible, but no later than 12 hours after the detection. A documented phone call or letter will be provided within 12 hours of a verified sighting. Leaving a phone message is an acceptable notification.
3. As soon as possible, taking into account the on date, the Forest Service will reassess the risk for contact to determine whether or not the area suitable for domestic sheep and goat grazing will change. The analysis will provide the information to determine the suited area following the addition of the new data. The Responsible Official will determine if livestock turnout may be authorized prior to completion of a suited grazing analysis.

Scenario 8 - Bighorn Sheep Reported within 10 Kilometers During the Grazing Season

Forest Service Sighting

1. The observer will contact the District Ranger or delegated Responsible official and the Forest Wildlife Biologist as soon as possible. The District Ranger (or delegated Responsible official) can receive calls between the hours of 7am and 9pm. **If the bighorn**

is within 2 kilometer (1.24 miles) of the domestic sheep and goat band, notification must occur immediately – the Wildlife Biologist or a designated acting can be called any time of the day or night. (This is the only difference from scenario 5).

2. The Forest Supervisor, District Ranger, or delegated Responsible official assigns a Forest Service employee to continue to monitor the movements of the bighorn sheep.
3. The District Ranger or delegated Responsible official notifies the permittee within 12 hours of notification of the sighting and instructs them to immediately begin to relocate the domestic sheep and goat band to an area which increases the distance to at least 2 kilometers (1.24 miles) between the band and the bighorn sheep.
4. The District Ranger or Responsible Official will consider how to implement RAGU13 to maintain separation and may require the band of domestic sheep and goats to be moved to a new location. This will determine the area available for grazing in the short term, until the new risk for contact analysis is completed by the Forest Service.
5. The new risk for contact analysis will provide the information to determine the area suitable for domestic sheep and goat grazing and will be noted in the permit. The need for the immediate separation is to prevent any initial contact between the two sheep species. The Forest Service will reassess the risk for contact within two weeks of the bighorn sighting.
6. In some cases, the additional 10 kilometers (6.21 miles) may result in little or no area left on the allotment to utilize.

Permittee/Permittee Employee Sighting

If a bighorn sheep is sighted within 2 kilometers (1.24 miles):

1. The herder will immediately move the domestic sheep and goat band to ensure separation between the band and the bighorn sheep. The herder will then contact the permittee using any of the required communication equipment after the domestic sheep have been moved. The District Ranger or delegated Responsible official must be notified immediately by the permittee.
2. Leaving a phone message is acceptable. The permittee will report the time he received notification from the herder. The District Ranger or delegated Responsible official can receive calls between the hours of 7am and 9pm. If the permittee receives notification from the herder between the hours of 9pm and 7am, the permittee has until 8am to report the missing sheep.
3. The District Ranger or Responsible Official will consider how to implement RAGU13 to maintain separation and may require the band of domestic sheep and goats to be moved to a new location. This will determine the area available for grazing in the short term, until the risk for contact analysis is completed by the Forest Service.

If a bighorn sheep is sighted greater than 2 kilometers (1.24 miles) to 10 kilometers (6.21 miles):

1. The herder will contact the permittee using any of the required communication equipment. The timeframe for the herder to contact the permittee must be within 12 hours of initial sighting. The permittee will contact the District Ranger or delegated Responsible official within 3 hours. Leaving a phone message is acceptable. The permittee will report the time he received notification from the herder. The District Ranger or delegated Responsible official can receive calls between the hours of 7am and 9pm. If the permittee receives notification from the herder between the hours of 9pm and 7am, the permittee has until 8am to report the missing sheep.
2. The District Ranger or Responsible Official will consider how to implement RAGU13 to maintain separation and may require the band of domestic sheep and goats to be moved to a new location. This will determine the area available for grazing in the short term, until the risk for contact analysis is completed by the Forest Service.

For both situations, when communication is established with the Permittee or foreman the herder must report:

- a. The location of the domestic sheep and goat band at the time the bighorn sheep was sighted;
- b. The number of bighorn sheep counted and their location;
- c. The current location of the domestic sheep and goat band; and
- d. The direction in which the bighorn sheep went.

Scenario 9 - Bighorn Sheep Reported within 10 Kilometers After the Grazing Season

Forest Service will survey priority source habitat within the 10 kilometers (6.21 miles) priority area 1-2 weeks after domestic sheep and goats are removed from the allotment. If bighorn sheep are detected, the agency will then reassess the risk for contact to provide information to determine the area suitable for domestic sheep and goat grazing. Permittees will be notified of the bighorn sighting within 24 hours. Changes in the suited area will be noted on the grazing permit the following year.

Domestic Sheep and Goats for Weed Control

Standard NPST13 states: Domestic sheep or goats shall not be utilized as a management tool for weed control where domestic sheep grazing is not suitable or where contact with bighorn sheep is possible.