

## STATEMENT OF REASONS

### CHAPTER 66

#### WYOMING BIGHORN/DOMESTIC SHEEP PLAN REVISION RULES

W.S. § 11-19-604 provides the Commission, Board of Agriculture and the Livestock Board the authority to jointly promulgate such orders as necessary to develop and maintain the Wyoming Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Plan.

An amendment to the Wyoming Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Plan Appendix M was requested by the Commission, Board of Agriculture and the Livestock Board. The amendment includes an additional identified bighorn sheep management designation for the State of Wyoming. The Bighorn Sheep Restoration Area (BSRA) is to be identified as a management designation, and by definition will ensure domestic livestock producers are not negatively affected by a potential re-introduction of bighorn sheep, or if natural immigration occurs from an existing herd.

The State of Wyoming recognizes and assumes all risk for potential interaction between domestic livestock and bighorn sheep in any designated BSRA, and will hold domestic livestock producers harmless if bighorn sheep have any contact with domestic livestock that may result in a potential disease event or mortality to an individual bighorn sheep or herd of bighorn sheep.

Section 5 (b). This section has been modified to incorporate recently amended language to the Wyoming Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Plan Appendix M. The new language to this subsection reads as follows:

The final report and recommendations of the Wyoming State-wide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction working group dated September 2004 together with appendices A through L and N adopted by the Wyoming State Legislature as the initial State-wide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Plan pursuant to Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 11-19-604, is incorporated by reference in these rules. Further, appendix M is incorporated as amended by the state-wide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep interaction working group and approved by the Board of Agriculture, the Commission and the Livestock Board dated September of 2024.

Minor grammatical and formatting edits have been incorporated into this regulation which do not change the meaning of existing regulations.