

Appendix M

DEFINITIONS - BIGHORN SHEEP MANAGEMENT AREAS

Bighorn Sheep Core, Native Herds

- These are Wyoming's largest bighorn sheep populations
- These are the highest priority areas for bighorn sheep management in Wyoming
- These herds have never been extirpated, then reestablished via transplants. They include the Clarks Fork, Trout Peak, Wapiti Ridge, Younts Peak, Francs Peak, Targhee, Jackson and whiskey Mountain Herds.
- These sheep herds occur in the Teton, Absaroka, Gros Ventre and Wind River Ranges.
- Domestic sheep may occur within the boundaries of the core, native bighorn sheep herds. All efforts will be made to prevent contact between bighorn and domestic sheep, as agreed to by the Statewide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Working Group.

Cooperative Review Areas

- These are the areas of suitable bighorn sheep range where proposed changes in bighorn sheep management or domestic sheep use will be cooperatively evaluated.
- This includes most suitable bighorn sheep range in Wyoming not addressed in the core, native herds or non-emphasis areas.

Bighorn Sheep Non-Emphasis Areas

- These are the lowest priority areas for bighorn sheep management.
- These include the Wyoming, Salt River and Bighorn Ranges on National Forest.
- No effort will be made to prioritize/emphasize bighorn sheep unless agreed to by the statewide Domestic/Bighorn Sheep Interaction/Working Group.
- Any existing bighorn sheep populations will not be protected at the expense of domestic sheep grazing.

Bighorn Sheep Non-Management Areas

- These areas are outside of identified management areas
- Bighorn sheep area permitted to occur in these areas, but are not actively encouraged.
- Wandering bighorn sheep with known, suspected, or potential contact with domestic sheep, with likelihood of subsequent contact with established bighorn sheep populations, should be captured/removed from the wild.

Bighorn Sheep Restoration Area (BSRA)

- The purpose of a BSRA is to provide for the establishment of additional bighorn sheep populations outside of core native herds without altering or changing livestock production due to the presence of bighorn sheep.
- BSRAs may be designated within an existing Cooperative Review Area, Bighorn Sheep Non-Emphasis Area, or Bighorn Sheep Non-Management Area and may be used to re- establish bighorn sheep populations resulting from natural immigration and/or a planned reintroduction.
- Designation of a BSRA will be made through an amendment to the Wyoming Plan in accordance with Wyoming Statute 11-19-604 and Wyoming Game and Fish Commission Chapter 66 regulations based on the recommendation of the Wyoming State-wide Bighorn/Domestic Sheep Interaction Working Group.
- Proposals to establish a BSRA will follow the review process outlined in Appendix L of the Wyoming Plan.
- In a designated BSRA, in the event bighorn sheep naturally immigrate into or are re- introduced, the state of Wyoming accepts any risk of contact between bighorn sheep and domestic livestock in the vicinity of those bighorn sheep and will hold livestock producers harmless in the event such contact occurs.