



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

JUL 06 2017

Ravalli County Commissioners

--	--	--	--	--

Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
June 28, 2017

Dear Interested Person:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) is requesting public review and comment on the following items. Supporting information on this item can be found on our website under "Opportunity for Public Comment" at fwp.mt.gov/hunting/ or directly by using the links below.

Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Augmentations – Proposed

Background: Augmentation to bolster struggling herds is an effective management tool that requires Commission approval to capture animals at one site and move them to another. Any final Commission endorsement for such actions would come after formal public comment. FWP is proposing two augmentations: one for mountain goats and one for bighorn sheep. The proposed augmentations are:

1. Mountain goat - Move 20 animals to Cube Iron Mountain north of Thompson Falls sometime during the winters of 2017-18 to 2019-20. This herd is currently about 20-30 animals and the target population is 75-100. The area has been closed to hunting since 1978, and recruitment has been low most likely because of natural mortality and mountain lion predation. Augmentation should boost recruitment to the point of population viability. Donor animals would most likely come from the Crazy Mountains.
2. Bighorn sheep - Move 40 animals, mostly ewes with some young rams, to the HD 122 St. Regis cutoff herd sometime during the winters of 2017-18 to 2019-20. This herd has recently declined from 100-130 to 20-25. Cause is unknown, but disease is highly suspected. 25-30% of the remaining sheep have been tested and no Movi found. Donor herds would likely be the Middle Missouri Breaks (HD 622) and/or Petty Creek (HD 203). This action is consistent with the Montana Bighorn Sheep Conservation Strategy.

All animals captured for augmentation would be given the standard battery of health and disease tests. Further information is found in the Commission packet.

TO MAKE A COMMENT

For further clarification or additional materials, you may call the Wildlife Division office at 406-444-2612 or email at fwpwld@mt.gov. Comments will be accepted: online by using any of the links below; in writing sent to the address above; and by email to fwpwld@mt.gov.

COMMENT PERIOD DEADLINE & FINAL ADOPTION MEETING

The proposed item will be accepting public comments until July 16, 2017 at 5 p.m. with final adoption at the August Commission meeting.

✓ Bighorn Sheep and Mountain Goat Augmentations – Proposed

<http://fwp.mt.gov/hunting/publicComments/2017/sheepGoatAugmentations.html>

Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701
June 28, 2017

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Presort First Class
U.S. Postage
PAID
Helena, MT
Permit No. 89

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RAVALLI COUNTY

215 S 4TH ST, SUITE A

HAMILTON, MT-59840-2853

EAHISP1 59840

