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August 31, 2007

Ms. Abigail Kimbell, Chief
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
Sidney R. Yates Federal Building
201 14th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Ms. Kimbell:

On behalf of the 23 state, provincial, and territorial wildlife agencies comprising the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA), please accept this letter and attached report entitled "*Recommendations for Domestic Sheep and Goat Management in Wild Sheep Habitat*". This report was first transmitted to WAFWA directors by its Wild Sheep Working Group (WSWG) on June 21, 2007, with a final presentation given by Chair Kevin Hurley at the annual business meeting on July 12, 2007, in Flagstaff, Arizona. The report was unanimously endorsed by the directors at that time.

WAFWA is in the process of forwarding this report to federal land management agencies that currently or potentially manage domestic sheep and goats in wild sheep habitats on federal lands. This WAFWA-endorsed report represents our association's official position on this issue. We recommend that this report, and the recommendations included herein, be used as the basis for creation or revision of policy-level direction in your agency.

WAFWA member agencies look forward to our continued involvement with our federal land management partner agencies. We appreciate all that the Forest Service, in particular, has done to date on management of domestic sheep and goats in wild sheep habitat, and we look forward to collaborating more in the future. Please advise me if you need additional input or clarification from our organization on this important matter. We appreciate your review and use of this report.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey R. Vonk
WAFWA President

JRV:cc

Attachment (1)

cc: WAFWA Directors
Larry Kruckenberg, WAFWA Secretary
Kevin Hurley, WAFWA Wild Sheep Working Group Chair

This letter also sent to:

Jim Caswell, Director
USDI Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Mary Bomar, Director
USDI National Park Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Dale Hall, Director
USDI Fish and Wildlife Service
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Robert Johnson, Commissioner
USDI Bureau of Reclamation
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Alex Beehler, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense
Installations & Environment (ESOH)
3400 Defense Pentagon Room 3C553
Washington, DC 20301-3400