



File Code: 1950
Date: January 13, 2017

Dear Reviewer:

A Draft Review of New Information Pertinent to Domestic Sheep Allotment Management Plans in the Gravelly Mountains on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest (Review) is currently available for public review and comment. The Review is electronically available on the Forest web page at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50067>. You can also Google “Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest NEPA projects” and scroll to find the “Supplemental EIS...” page in the projects list. Reviewers may request a CD or printed copy at the contact information below.

The Review is being completed in compliance with a June 14, 2016 District Court Order requiring the U.S. Forest Service to review five issues raised by Gallatin Wildlife Association, and others, in a legal complaint filed in 2015. Livestock management practices for permitted domestic sheep grazing on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest in the Gravelly Mountains are currently prescribed through seven Allotment Management Plans (AMPs). The Review analyzes the effects of domestic sheep grazing on these allotments in terms of whether there may be significant effects on the Greenhorn bighorn sheep herd due to the introduction of the herd, the listing of bighorn sheep as a sensitive species, the impact of domestic sheep on bighorn sheep populations and individuals, spread of disease from comingling, the terms of MOUs including potential for kill permits, and potential to reintroduce additional bighorn sheep herds.

To ensure full compliance with the Court’s Order, I am providing a 30-day public comment period for a draft Review. After evaluating the new information and considering public comment, I will determine if the new information is significant, relevant to environmental concerns and suggests a potential for significant environmental impacts that were not previously disclosed. Formal supplementation of previous environmental analyses prepared for the approval of existing AMPs for the domestic sheep allotments is only required when there may be significant environmental effects that were not previously evaluated.

Please submit written comment by **February 13, 2017** to:

Madison District Ranger, Dale Olson
5 Forest Service Road
Ennis, MT 59729

Comments may also be submitted via email at: comments-northern-beaverhead-deerlodge@fs.fed.us or faxed to (406)682-4233. Please type “Gravelly Sheep” in the subject line of emails or faxes and **include your physical mailing address for future correspondence.**



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Questions concerning this project or requests for the Review on CD or a printed copy may be directed to Jan Bowey at (406) 683-3853 or sent via email to: comments-northern-beaverhead-deerlodge@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,



DALE OLSON
District Ranger