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**Subject:** Weminuche Landscape Grazing DEIS Comments Monday,  
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RE: Separating Domestic Sheep from Bighorn Sheep

Please consider the following comment in regards to the Draft EIS for the Weminuche Landscape Grazing Analysis. Greg Warren, Golden, CO 80401

A National Wildlife Federation publication (and others) discuss disease transmittal as a result of wandering bighorn sheep rams. Given that bighorn sheep rams are very mobile and not easily detected, it seems that rams that are located in or adjacent to stocked sheep allotments would have a substantial chance of contacting domestic sheep even with the proposed mitigation measures. Following is an excerpt from the NWF publication:

**Assessing the Risk of Contact between Domestic Sheep and Bighorns**

Separation of domestic and bighorn sheep is vital to ensuring bighorn herd health. Typically, this separation is achieved through the use of buffer zones between wild bighorn herds and domestic sheep and goats. Over time, state and federal agencies have used various distances between wild and domestic sheep to characterize the risk of contact between them. Initially, 9 miles was considered meaningful... Yet bighorn rams – which are the most mobile – have been seen nearly 20 miles from a herd's established home range... It is usually such wandering rams looking for mates that is the point of contact with domestic sheep....

Please address in the **EIS** the expected effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures for separating domestic sheep from bighorn sheep rams in areas where sheep allotments are stocked and bighorn sheep habitat is occupied. In addition, the **ROD** should discuss how the selected alternative is in compliance with the following Forest Plan standard.

2.3.39 **Bighorn Sheep (*Ovis canadensis*):** During project-level planning on domestic sheep (*O. aries*) allotments, management options must be developed to prevent physical contact between domestic sheep and bighorn sheep. Actions may include but are not limited to boundary modification, livestock-type conversion, or allotment closures.

Thank you for considering this comment.