

John Meyer, MT Bar # 11206
Cottonwood Environmental Law Center
P.O. Box 412 Bozeman, MT 59771
(406) 546-0149 | Phone
John@cottonwoodlaw.org

Attorney for Plaintiffs

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA

COTTONWOOD ENVIRONMENTAL)	
LAW CENTER; GALLATIN)	
WILDLIFE ASSOCIATION;)	Case No. 9:17-cv-00155-DLC
YELLOWSTONE BUFFALO)	
FOUNDATION)	
Plaintiffs,)	EXHIBIT 13
vs.)	
U.S. SHEEP EXPERIMENT)	
STATION; AGRICULTURAL)	
RESEARCH SERVICE)	
Defendants.)	
_____)	_____

Notes from Discussion with Curtis Keetch, WL Biologist, Dubois Ranger District
Caribou-Targhee NF. – 4/10/08

Mark Orme, Forest Bio. Phone is – 208 557-5785
Curtis Keetch – 208 374-5422 (district office)

I hope to meet with Curtis Keetch on May 7th.

Process Paper D. is a part of the 1997 Forest Plan that has many details regarding MIS,
population information, etc. May be available from Mark Orme.

AMP information

Shane Jacobson = Range/WL Staff on the dubois district. Scott Mccoy = range
conservationst. Scott and Curtis participated in this phonecall. Curtis did BA/BE.

Kelly Canyon and Snakey Canyon allotments are adjacent to each other. NEPA was
completed under Categorical Exclusion Authority, done together. Curtis completed the
BA/BE/Wildlife specialist Reports. Species status includes

- Lynx – These AMPs are far away from LAUs. Not habitat for resident lynx population. Shrublands, Grasslands, aspen mix.
- Grizzly Bear - BMU approximately 40 miles East. No modern documented sitings of grizzly bear west of I-15.
- Bighorn sheep – Bighorn sheep are present in areas near Copper mtn., not on ARS lands. Small herd, 30 head. Reintroduction from the 70s and 80. Idaho Dept. of Game and Fish considers these herds as a low priority.
- There is no documented interaction between domestic sheep and bighorn sheep on the Kelly Canyon and Snakey Canyon allotments because domestics are grazed there during winter, while the bighorn sheep use the opposite side of beaver head mtns. Basically, geographic separation.
- Grey wolf, no identified packs anywhere near the allotments. Meyers creek unsure, possible pack. No depraadation on Dubois district, but sheep station lost some sheep on the humphrey area at one time. Wolves moved on to other areas.

Meyers Creek Allotment - Allen Park District, Brian Aber, district wildlife biologist. 208
558-4215.

East Beaver in an EIS – Done awhile ago, late 90s .

- Lynx – No LAU, only described linkage which connects to central Idaho, Salmon/challis NF.
- Grizzly Bear – No BMU, nearest is probably 10 miles East.

For Grizzly Bear, the Centennial Mtn. Range is the best linkage habitat between Yellowstone and central Idaho. It has been identified as a corridor, but there are no management standards or guidelines developed. No grizzly bear west side of I-15 documented in modern times.

Bighorn sheep are not a R4 sensitive species, also not an MIS and not a species of local concern. District Bio. and State Bio. hoping to partner with the Wild Sheep Foundation (Used to be North American Wild Sheep Foundation) to collar wild sheep, and demonstrate separation. Discussion phase only. Snakey and Kelly have bighorn sheep. East beaver, wild sheep about 40 miles away, Meyers wild sheep about 30 miles away. No other herds nearby. No bighorns documented in the Centennial mtns. Maybe in Henry's lake area, maybe in Montana.

Cooperation between USFS and USSES occurs through an MOU. That MOU was updated July 3, 2007 and allows annual temporary grazing. Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs) occur through coordination occurs through local discussions. Meyers allows sheep grazing for a 2 week period used during sheep trailing in early July and then again in early September. Kelly and Snakey are winter range domestic sheep grazing.

Montana information includes BLM and Redrock Lake NW Refuge. Beaverhead/Deerlodge NF, Camis RD.

USFWS Contact is Sandi Arena from Chubbick, ID They have Level 1 streamlining meetings with members being Mark Orme (Forest Bio.), Rose Leman (?), and Jim Capurso (?). Generally only 1 per year, week long, in spring, where they review a bunch of projects. Spring mtg. already occurred.

GIS library Contact – Forest Level, Judy Warich, 208 557-5814.