

Project Area

The Hells Canyon bighorn sheep project area encompasses more than 2 million hectares (5,617,062 acres) in the Snake River drainage in Idaho, Oregon and Washington. For comparison, this is twice the size of Yellowstone National Park, or about the size of the state of New Jersey. The project area extends from Lewiston, Idaho and Clarkston, Washington south along the Snake River to Brownlee Reservoir near Halfway, Oregon. Major river drainages include the Snake, Grande Ronde, Imnaha, and Salmon Rivers.

Over 1.3 million acres (24%) of the project area is potential bighorn sheep habitat based on terrain, vegetation, and availability of water. Public lands make up 68% of this potential habitat; the primary public agency managing these lands is the U.S. Forest Service. Other public land managers are the states of Oregon, Idaho, and Washington and the Bureau of Land Management. There are currently 16 bighorn sheep populations, or herds, in the project area.

