



IDAHO FISH AND GAME GOLDSHEET

January 2026 Commission Meeting

Agenda Item: Jacks Creek Bighorn Sheep Augmentation Update

Presented by: Hollie Miyasaki

Position/Title: Wildlife Staff Biologist

Agenda Item No.: 12

Supervisor Approval: SR

Background:

The Idaho Bighorn Sheep Management Plan 2022-2027 provides management direction and strategies related to predation, habitat, health, and translocations. After evaluating bighorn sheep information gathered from IDFG research and monitoring projects, staff determined that the California bighorn sheep population in the Jacks Creek Population Management Unit (PMU) of the Owyhees would likely benefit from population augmentation (i.e., adding bighorn sheep to the existing population). The overarching goal of this augmentation project is to increase the total number of bighorn sheep in the Jacks Creek PMU by improving the growth rate and genetic diversity of the population.

IDFG plans to move 30 bighorn sheep from John Day, Oregon to augment the Jacks Creek PMU in early January 2026. This agenda item will provide an update of the augmentation efforts.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Commission is charged with administering wildlife policy, and through the Department, is responsible for preserving, protecting, perpetuating and managing the state's wildlife (Idaho Code 36-103). Idaho Code 36-106 provides direction for steps to be taken prior to the translocation of bighorn sheep in Idaho. Idaho Code 36-408 states that no auction tag funding will be used for translocations south of the Snake River and west of US 93.

Public Involvement Process:

The public is interested in information on bighorn sheep. The Commission and the Department receive input from the public on bighorn sheep management throughout the year via social media, email, phone calls, public meetings and hearings, and other events. The public also has the opportunity to comment on this topic at the January Commission public hearing.

Justification:

The information presented will inform Commissioners of bighorn sheep management actions in southwestern Idaho.

Staff Recommendation:

N/A – informational only.



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Suggested Motion:

N/A – informational only.