Meeting Date: January 27, 2022  
Agenda Item No. 5F  
Agenda Item: Draft Bighorn Sheep Management Plan  
Bureau Chief Approval: JR  
(ACTION)

Prepared by: Hollie Miyasaki, Wildlife Staff Biologist

Background:  
Staff will present an overview of the Draft Bighorn Sheep Management Plan and seek  
Commission approval to release the draft for public comment.

The intent of this revision to the 2010 Bighorn Sheep Management Plan is to use current  
information to provide guidance for the Department and their partners to implement  
management actions that will aid in protection and management of bighorn sheep  
populations in Idaho and guide harvest season recommendations. This plan will function  
as the action plan for bighorn sheep management in Idaho. Major issues that affect  
bighorn sheep are identified and the plan will set overall direction for bighorn sheep  
management during the next 6 years (2022-2027). This plan will guide the Department  
in annual work plan development and program prioritization, and provide guidance on  
development of regulatory recommendations.

Staff will provide an overview of the draft plan at the meeting.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:  
The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through  
supervision and management of the Department (Idaho Code 36-104). Species  
management plans are the guiding documents to manage wildlife and are a direct  
reflection of the Department Strategic Plan. The Bighorn Sheep Management Plan will  
function as the action plan for bighorn sheep management in Idaho.

Public Involvement Process:  
After the draft Bighorn Sheep Management Plan is approved for release, the Department  
will seek further input on the draft from the public, interested groups, and affected  
agencies. Public input will be sought during February 2022 and a final plan will be  
developed with consideration of that input.

Justification:  
This agenda item is for Commission information on the current status of the update of  
the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan. The Commission sets policy and provides  
direction, considers input from the public, and has the authority to adopt, amend, or  
reject Department-recommended plans.

Staff Recommendation:  
Staff seeks Commission concurrence to release the Draft Bighorn Sheep Management  
Plan to the public, agency partners, and interested organizations for further comments.  
Staff will revise the draft based on input received with intent to complete a final plan to  
present to the Commission for approval and adoption in March 2022.

Suggested Motion: That the Commission approve the draft bighorn sheep management  
plan for release to the public for review and input.