**United States Department of Agriculture** | **Forest Service** | **Washington Office** | **14th & Independence SW P.O. Box 96090 Washington, DC 20090-6090**

**File Code:** 2600/2200 **Date:** August 1, 2001
**Route To:**

**Subject:** Bighorn and Domestic Sheep Management Process

**To:** Regional Foresters

Under the auspices of the FULL CURL Program, the Forest Service has worked with partners for many years to cooperatively manage habitats for wild sheep. Disease transmission and the role domestic sheep can play in causing fatal pneumonia in bighorn sheep is an important issue in the long-term maintenance of healthy and sustainable bighorn sheep herds. It is important to make information available regarding the well-documented incompatibility between domestic and wild sheep species.

To address this issue, we are pleased to provide the document, *A Process for Finding Management Solutions to the Incompatibility Between Domestic and Bighorn Sheep*. It describes a collaborative process for resolving bighorn/domestic sheep management conflicts. By using the approach outlined in the document, politically charged situations may be successfully avoided. The document is specifically designed to help Forest Service range and wildlife specialists work with interested individuals and organizations to develop site-specific solutions.

The proposed process is divided into three major components: 1) disease overview; 2) collaborative approaches to identify issues and opportunities; and 3) developing workable solutions. Broad recommendations are included, as well as a question and answer section.

Please distribute this information widely to your field units and encourage implementation of this process as appropriate. Questions regarding the enclosed document or other aspects of the Forest Service FULL CURL program may be directed to Tim Schommer (541-523-1383) or Melanie Woolever (303-275-5007). We hope that this publication will assist field units in achieving collaborative on-the-ground solutions to domestic/bighorn sheep conflicts.

/s/ *Sally Collins*

JAMES R. FURNISH
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Enclosure

cc:
Regional Wildlife and Fisheries Directors
Regional Range Directors