

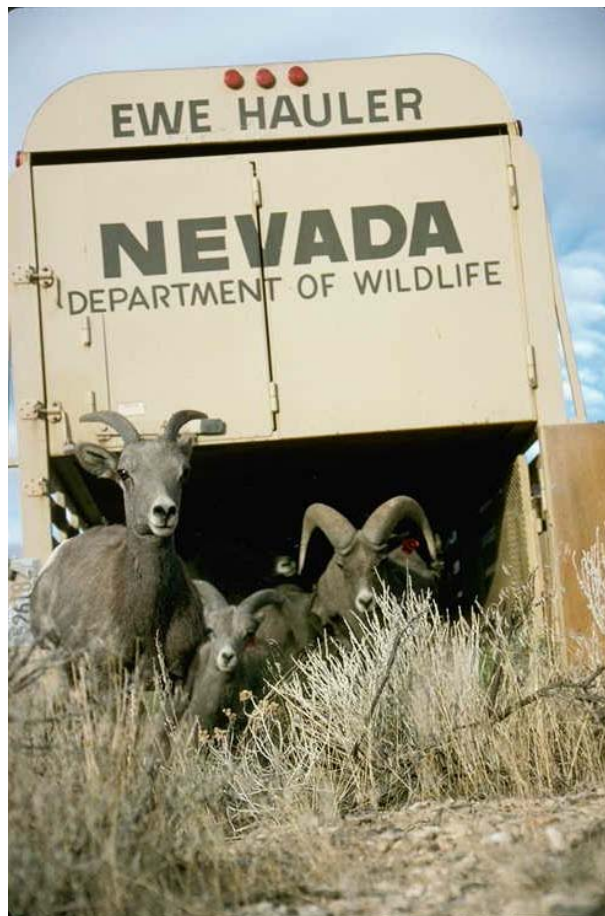
Nevada Department of Wildlife

**BIG GAME  
RELEASE PLAN**

For

**FISCAL YEARS 2010 AND 2011**

(December 2009 - July 2011)



**December 2009**

**FY 2008 and 2009 BIG GAME RELEASE PLAN  
SUMMARY OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

| <b>Species</b>            | <b>Date</b> | <b>Location</b>         | <b>County</b> | <b>Type</b> | <b>Number Released</b> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|---------------|-------------|------------------------|
| <b>Desert Bighorn</b>     | 10/07       | White Pine Range        | White Pine    | A           | 24                     |
|                           | 12/07       | Delamar Mountains       | Lincoln       | A           | 52                     |
|                           | 12/07       | Wassuk Range            | Mineral       | A           | 28                     |
|                           | 10/08       | South Tobin Range       | Pershing      | A           | 22                     |
|                           | 10/08       | Delamar Mountains       | Lincoln       | A           | 75                     |
|                           | 10/08       | Meadow Valley Mountains | Lincoln       | A           | 32                     |
|                           |             |                         |               |             |                        |
| <b>California Bighorn</b> | 12/07       | Virginia Mountains      | Washoe        | A           | 22                     |
|                           |             |                         |               |             |                        |
| <b>Pronghorn Antelope</b> | 1/08        | Garden Valley           | Lincoln       | A           | 94                     |
|                           | 1/08        | Coal Valley             | Lincoln       | A           | 93                     |
|                           |             |                         |               |             |                        |

**FY 2010-2011 DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP  
PROPOSED RELEASE SUMMARY**

| <b>Location</b>                | <b>County</b> | <b>Type</b>  | <b>Number</b> | <b>Agency</b>         |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Stillwater Range,<br>Southwest | Churchill     | Augmentation | 40            | BLM – Carson City     |
| Gold Buttes                    | Clark         | Augmentation | 40            | BLM – Southern Nevada |
| Meadow Valley<br>Mountains     | Lincoln       | Augmentation | 40            | BLM - Ely             |
| South Pahroc<br>Range          | Lincoln       | Augmentation | 40            | BLM - Ely             |
| Delamar<br>Mountains           | Lincoln       | Augmentation | 40            | BLM - Ely             |
| Mt. Grafton                    | Lincoln       | Augmentation | 40            | BLM - Ely             |

**FY 2010-2011 CALIFORNIA BIGHORN SHEEP  
PROPOSED RELEASE SUMMARY**

| <b>Location</b>                      | <b>County</b> | <b>Type</b>  | <b>Number</b> | <b>Agency</b>              |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| Jackson<br>Mountains                 | Humboldt      | Augmentation | 30            | BLM – Winnemucca           |
| Santa Rosa<br>Range, Martin<br>Creek | Humboldt      | Augmentation | 30            | USFS – Humboldt<br>Toiyabe |

**FY 2010-2011 ROCKY MOUNTAIN BIGHORN SHEEP  
PROPOSED RELEASE SUMMARY**

| <b>Location</b>      | <b>County</b> | <b>Type</b>    | <b>Number</b> | <b>Agency</b> |
|----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|
| Goshute<br>Mountains | Elko          | Reintroduction | 30            | BLM – Elko    |

**FY 2010-2011 PRONGHORN ANTELOPE  
PROPOSED RELEASE SUMMARY**

| <b>Location</b>     | <b>County</b> | <b>Type</b>  | <b>Number</b> | <b>Agency</b> |
|---------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Delamar Valley      | Lincoln       | Augmentation | 100           | BLM – Ely     |
| Hamlin Valley       | Lincoln       | Augmentation | 100           | BLM – Ely     |
| South Spring Valley | Lincoln       | Augmentation | 100           | BLM – Ely     |

**Goal and Purpose of Release Plan**

The release plan serves to identify opportunities in meeting the objectives of the various big game species management plans for herd restoration, allow for concurrence from the Board of Wildlife Commissioners, inform and collaborate with land management agencies and permitted users of public land on which most releases will occur, and keep sportsmen and the general public informed on efforts to restore and populate big game herds across the state for their enjoyment and benefit. The identified releases are truly only opportunities and are not set in stone. If habitat conditions change from the present, weather prevents safe capture operations, source stocks are not adequate, or scheduling conflicts arise with capture crew, some releases may be postponed into the future or all together cancelled. Some releases are pending assessments, actions, and/or habitat treatments to occur that are estimated to be completed during the next 2 years. Obviously if they are not completed, releases will be postponed.

# BIG GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

**SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES:** Desert Bighorn Sheep Augmentation FY2010-11

**APPROXIMATE NUMBER TO BE RELEASED:** 40

**RELEASE SITE:**

**NAME:** Stillwater Range, Southwest, Shirttail Canyon

**COUNTY:** Churchill

**LEGAL or COORDINATE DESCRIPTION:** T19N R32E Sec 3

**COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY:**

Bureau of Land Management - Carson City Field Office

**AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT:**

Stillwater Range Habitat Management Plan

**OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:**

None

**NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS:**

BLM Carson District will be contacted at least one month in advance of release to allow BLM to notify livestock permittees prior to release. The Churchill County Advisory Board to manage wildlife and Nevada Bighorns Unlimited Chapters will be notified of the projected release date.

**HABITAT EVALUATION:**

Adequate water as well as escape cover and forage is available at the release site. The majority of the sheep habitat is in good condition due to the rough topography and degree of slope.

**PREDATOR EVALUATION:**

Nothing suggests that predator populations are excessive or will prevent the initial bighorn release complement from growing. No predator control is recommended at this time. If post-release monitoring confirms predator kills are occurring, efforts will be made to receive assistance to conduct selective predator removal to prevent excessive mortalities that would limit population growth.

**COMMENTS:** This proposed project is an augmentation to an existing small population of bighorn that have pioneered the southwest side of the Stillwater Range. The release of bighorn into the Shirttail Canyon area would increase bighorn density and expand distribution on the southwest side of the range.

**NDOW REGION:** Western **DATE PREPARED:** August 2009

# BIG GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

**SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES:** Desert Bighorn Sheep Augmentation FY2010-11

**APPROXIMATE NUMBER TO BE RELEASED:** 40

**RELEASE SITE:**

**NAME:** Gold Buttes

**COUNTY:** Clark

**LEGAL or COORDINATE DESCRIPTION:** T20S R71E and/or T16S R70E

**COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY:**

Bureau of Land Management - Southern Nevada District Office

**AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT:**

Gold Butte Habitat Management Plan (1983)

**OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:**

Las Vegas Resource Management Plan - 1998

**NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS:**

Clark County Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife and local sportsmen groups will be notified of the projected release date.

**HABITAT EVALUATION:**

In May 2004, the Virgin #1 water development was constructed northwest of Whitney Pocket as a measure to enhance habitat prior to the bighorn sheep release (augmentation) that was accomplished in October 2005. In March 2006, Virgin #2 was constructed north of Whitney Pocket. Although the LVRMP ROD closed all allotments in the Virgin Mountain-Gold Butte complex to livestock grazing, trespass cattle remain in the area. The levels of OHV use and proliferation of unauthorized trails/roads in the area has increased rapidly since the latter half of the 1990s. Wildland fires caused by lightning strikes in 2005 and 2006 impacted vegetative associations in the Virgin Mountains and Gold Buttes. In general, the fires may have enhanced bighorn habitat at upper mid to higher elevations by removing dense vegetation, yet at lower elevations degraded areas exist due to establishment of exotic annual plant species.

**PREDATOR EVALUATION:**

In the Gold Buttes, there is little information to suggest predator populations are excessively large or expanding. No predator control is recommended in the Gold Buttes. No predator control is recommended at this time. If post-release monitoring confirms predator kills are occurring, efforts will be made to receive assistance to conduct selective predator removal to prevent excessive mortalities that would limit population growth. There is information to suggest predation pressure in the adjacent Virgin Mountains has limited expansion of bighorn release complements (2005 and 2006). A bighorn sheep release in the Virgin Mountains may be pursued pending results of a fall 2009 aerial survey that reflects bighorn detections in proximity to water developments and the Whitney Pocket area

**COMMENTS:**

Information in NDOW files suggests the decline of the bighorn sheep population in the Virgin Mountains between 1920s and 1950s was attributed to disease (domestic sheep grazing), competition with livestock

and poaching. Subsequently, aerial survey data also indicate two bighorn sheep complements released at Cabin Spring in 1979 and 1980 failed to produce a viable population. As recently as the early 1980s, domestic sheep were trailed through St. Thomas Gap from an allotment on the Arizona Strip District to the Mormon Mesa area. In addition, because of past accounts of exotic sheep observed in the area, releases were not recommended in the Virgin Mountains due to unresolved concerns of the potential for disease-induced die off. At present, these concerns appear partly resolved. Bighorn sheep released in the Virgin Mountains may be naïve to virulent pathogens harbored by resident free-ranging bighorn. In October 2005, in accordance with NDOW's biennial Big Game Release Plan (FY 2006-07), 25 bighorn sheep were released at Virgin #1 water development. The release contingent was comprised of 17 ewes and 8 lambs. In October 2006, 27 bighorn sheep were released midway between Virgin #1 water development and Whitney Pocket. The release contingent was comprised of 22 ewes and 5 lambs. In that some individuals from the 2005 and 2006 releases have dispersed over a large area, the overall success of the augmentations remains under evaluation.

**NDOW REGION:** Southern

**DATE PREPARED:** August 2009

# BIG GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

**SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES:** Desert Bighorn Sheep Augmentation FY2010-11

**APPROXIMATE NUMBER TO BE RELEASED:** 40

**RELEASE SITE:**

**NAME:** Meadow Valley Mountains

**COUNTY:** Lincoln

**LEGAL or COORDINATE DESCRIPTION:** T12S R64E Sec. 7

**COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY:**

Bureau of Land Management - Ely District, Caliente Field Office

**AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT:**

Meadow Valley - Arrow Canyon - Delamar Habitat Management Plan. This document has been in effect since 1992, but water developments and wildlife releases are under additional scrutiny since the area has been designated as wilderness. This release will be done outside of the wilderness boundary. To date, 5 water developments have been constructed.

**OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:**

Operation Plan - To be developed cooperatively by BLM and NDOW

**NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS:**

BLM will be contacted at least one month in advance of release to allow BLM to notify livestock permittees. The Lincoln County Advisory Board to manage wildlife and local sportsmen groups will be notified of the projected release date.

**HABITAT EVALUATION:**

The 242 square miles of occupied and potential bighorn sheep habitat in the Meadow Valley Mountains are classified as good to excellent. Desert bighorn use of the Meadow Valley Mountains has historically been yearlong, but available habitat has increased with the construction of water developments (bighorn sheep guzzlers). This bighorn population was estimated at 155 animals in the mid-1980's but declined in the late 1980's and has remained at low levels up to present. A bighorn release, coupled with increased water distribution, would encourage the bighorn population to increase to historic levels. One additional water development is planned at this time.

**PREDATOR EVALUATION:**

Nothing suggests that predator populations are excessive or will prevent the bighorn release complement from growing. No predator control is recommended at this time. If post-release monitoring confirms predator kills are occurring, protective efforts may be extended to the Meadow Valley Mountains from the adjacent Delamar Mountains where bighorn sheep protection is ongoing.

**COMMENTS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NDOW REGION:** Southern

**DATE PREPARED:** August 2009

# BIG GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

**SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES:** Desert Bighorn Sheep Augmentation FY2010-11

**APPROXIMATE NUMBER TO BE RELEASED:** 40

**RELEASE SITE:**

**NAME:** South Pahroc Range

**COUNTY:** Lincoln

**LEGAL or COORDINATE DESCRIPTION:** T6S R62E Sec. 6

**COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY:**

Bureau of Land Management - Ely District, Caliente Field Office

**AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT:**

Big Rocks, Mount Irish, and South Pahroc Range Wilderness Management Plan and Environmental Assessment - January 14, 2008. South Hiko Desert Bighorn Sheep Habitat Management Plan. This document has been in effect since 1987, but water developments and wildlife releases are under additional scrutiny since part of the area has been designated as wilderness. This release will be done outside of the wilderness boundary.

**OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:**

Operation Plan - To be developed cooperatively by BLM and NDOW.

**NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS:**

BLM will be contacted at least one month in advance of release to allow BLM to notify livestock permittees. The Lincoln County Advisory Board to manage wildlife and local sportsmen groups will be notified of the projected release date.

**HABITAT EVALUATION:**

Bighorn sheep habitat was evaluated as good in the South Pahroc's in the 1980's. A 25,000 acre wildfire occurred in 2005 that removed a great deal of encroaching pinyon-juniper. Post-fire vegetation is grasses, forbs, and shrubs which has greatly increased suitable bighorn habitat.

**PREDATOR EVALUATION:**

Nothing suggests that predator populations are excessive or will prevent the bighorn release complement from growing. No predator control is recommended at this time. If post-release monitoring confirms predator kills are occurring, protective efforts may be extended to the South Pahroc Range from the adjacent Delamar Mountains where bighorn sheep protection is ongoing.

**COMMENTS:** The release location would be near Eight Mile Spring in the southwest portion of the range. Bighorns were released in 1985 and 1986 in this area and are still present in relatively low densities. The 2005 wildfire has substantially increased suitable bighorn habitat for an expanding herd. As the population grows, additional water sources based on seasonal habitat use patterns of marked bighorn may be necessary to further the expansion of this herd into the 2005 wildfire area.

**NDOW REGION:** Southern **DATE PREPARED:** 8/24/2009

# BIG GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

**SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES:** Desert Bighorn Sheep Augmentation FY2010-11

**APPROXIMATE NUMBER TO BE RELEASED:** 40

**RELEASE SITE:**

**NAME:** Delamar Mountains

**COUNTY:** Lincoln

**LEGAL or COORDINATE DESCRIPTION:** T8S R65E Sec. 30

**COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY:**

Bureau of Land Management - Ely District, Caliente Field Office

**AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT:**

Meadow Valley - Arrow Canyon - Delamar Habitat Management Plan. This document has been in effect since 1992, but water developments and wildlife releases are under additional scrutiny since part of the area has been designated as wilderness. This release will be done outside of the wilderness boundary. To date, seven water developments have been constructed and one additional water development is planned at this time.

**OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:**

Operation Plan - To be developed cooperatively by BLM and NDOW.

**NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS:**

BLM will be contacted at least one month in advance of release to allow BLM to notify livestock permittees. The Lincoln County Advisory Board to manage wildlife and local sportsmen groups will be notified of the projected release date.

**HABITAT EVALUATION:**

Bighorn sheep habitat was evaluated in the Delamar Mountains in 1988 with 113 square miles of the southern portion rated good to very good bighorn habitat. Water was the only limited factor in this southern portion. To date, seven water developments have been constructed in this southern portion of the Delamars. Wildfires in 1994, 1999, and 2005 burned over 225 square miles of the southern and northern portions of the Delamars. Though the invasive red brome grass can be found throughout much of the lower elevations due to the wildfires, large areas of pinyon-juniper were removed along with extensive areas revegetated post-fire with new growth of perennial grass/forb/shrub understory. The combined southern and northern portions of the Delamars are now estimated to have over 400 square miles of bighorn habitat. This is one of the largest continuous bighorn habitats in Nevada. Due to its great expanse, effective surveys and assessments of occupied areas and bighorn densities has been difficult.

**PREDATOR EVALUATION:**

A bighorn sheep protection project is ongoing in this area. The protective efforts may be extended to adjacent areas when necessary. The past removal of lions and bobcats by Wildlife Services have allowed for increased adult survival and lamb recruitment based on limited aerial surveys and images from trail cameras at water sources. Ear-tagged ewes from earlier releases over 7 years ago have been recently documented by trail cameras.

**COMMENTS:** The release location would be near Sunflower Reservoir, north of Jump-Up Canyon in the southeastern portion of the range.

**NDOW REGION:** Southern      **DATE PREPARED:** August 2009

# BIG GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

**SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES:** Desert Bighorn Sheep Augmentation FY2010-11

**APPROXIMATE NUMBER TO BE RELEASED:** 40

**RELEASE SITE:**

**NAME:** Mt. Grafton

**COUNTY:** Lincoln

**LEGAL or COORDINATE DESCRIPTION:** T10N, R64E, Sec. 28 or aerial wilderness release

**COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY:**

Bureau of Land Management - Ely District, Schell Field Office

**AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT:**

Ely District Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision 2008.

**OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:**

Operation Plan - To be developed cooperatively by BLM and NDOW

**NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS:**

BLM will be contacted at least one month in advance of release to allow BLM to notify livestock permittees. The Lincoln and White Pine County Advisory Boards to manage wildlife and local sportsmen groups will be notified of the projected release date.

**HABITAT EVALUATION:**

A habitat evaluation of Mt. Grafton was completed in 1985. Though relatively small compared to most bighorn habitats in Nevada, it was noted to have excellent bighorn habitat of forage, escape terrain, and water distribution. Before the bighorn release can occur, an assessment of an adjacent domestic sheep trailing route is necessary to determine proximity and timing of the trailing route in relationship to Mt. Grafton bighorn habitat to ensure adequate separation exists between domestic and wild sheep in time and space. In addition, BLM will be consulted on opportunities to reduce Pinyon-juniper stands surrounding Mt. Grafton that have encroached onto the area and reduced available forage and winter range.

**PREDATOR EVALUATION:**

Based on current distribution of mule deer and elk herds on Mt. Grafton and known mountain lion home ranges on the mountain, it is recommended that Mt. Grafton receive bighorn sheep protection during the first 2 years post-release.

**COMMENTS:** Initially, a small complement of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep were released in 1986 and 1987. A population never established, with only a few individuals sighted through the mid 1990's. Since then the 2001 statewide bighorn sheep management plan has identified Mt. Grafton to be within the area for desert bighorn sheep subspecies reintroductions. Recent sightings of bighorn on Mt. Grafton are thought to be of desert bighorns that have likely dispersed from the adjacent Egan Range to the west. Source stock for Mt. Grafton would be bighorn sheep from the Toquima Range or similar high elevation habitat that contains forested areas at mid-elevation.

**NDOW REGION:** Southern

**DATE PREPARED:** August 2009

# BIG GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

**SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES:** California Bighorn Sheep Augmentation FY2010-11

**APPROXIMATE NUMBER TO BE RELEASED:** 30

**RELEASE SITE:**

**NAME:** Jackson Mountains

**COUNTY:** Humboldt

**LEGAL or COORDINATE DESCRIPTION:** , T40N, R31E, SEC 5 and T39N, R30E SEC 22

**COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY:**

BLM-Winnemucca

**AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT:**

Land Use Plan supports big game transplants.

**OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:**

This release site is outside the wilderness boundary

**NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS:**

BLM will be contacted at least one month in advance of release to allow BLM to notify livestock permittees. Humboldt County Advisory Board to manage wildlife, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Nevada Chukar Foundation, and Nevada Muley's will be notified of the projected release date.

**HABITAT EVALUATION:**

Steep canyons in both the north and south end of the range have the best available habitat with ample water in the bottoms of canyons as well as springs and seeps. The habitat is in good condition due to the steep terrain which in some areas excludes livestock grazing. Some impacts do occur from the expanding feral horse population. This release is to increase densities of existing sheep populations within the Jackson Mountains. This population has been holding steady the last several years with very little increases or decreases. The first release that took place was in 1984 with two others following in the late 80's. Quality bighorn habitat that is either unoccupied or with only low numbers of bighorns is still available to allow for continued augmentation and allow current herds to increase and encourage new subherds to pioneer unoccupied habitats.

**PREDATOR EVALUATION:**

Due to the extremely steep terrain and wilderness that restricts access, predator removal efforts are suggested pre- and post-bighorn augmentation. Predator control should continue for at least one year after release. Sport harvest is extremely low due to rocky/steep terrain and limited access due to wilderness designation.

**COMMENTS:** Feral horse populations need to be closely monitored by BLM and kept below HML.

**NDOW REGION:** Western

**DATE PREPARED:** July 2009

# BIG GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

**SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES:** California Bighorn Sheep      Augmentation      FY2010-11

**APPROXIMATE NUMBER TO BE RELEASED:** 30

**RELEASE SITE:**

**NAME:** Martin Creek, Santa Rosa Range

**COUNTY:** Humboldt

**LEGAL or COORDINATE DESCRIPTION:** T 44N, R 40E Section 25 and T 43N, R 41E, SEC 21

**COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY:**

USFS Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

**AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT:**

Consistent with Forest Service Plan Direction and BLM land use plan

**OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:**

none

**NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS:**

Humboldt County Advisory Board to manage wildlife, Nevada Bighorns Unlimited, Nevada Chukar Foundation, and Nevada Muley's will be notified of the projected release date. Paradise Valley School will be notified prior to the release. Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest will be contacted at least one month in advance of release to allow them to notify livestock permittees.

**HABITAT EVALUATION:**

Habitat for bighorn sheep is in excellent condition. Steep terrain is ideal with plenty of available water. These herds have the potential to expand greatly within this range. Very little competition exists between livestock and bighorn sheep. This release will aid in the expansion of this herd.

**PREDATOR EVALUATION:**

Predator control work for this release is not needed at this time. Due to accessibility, sport harvest of predators is ample at this time. Average age and number of lions being harvested within this range has dropped indicating that predator populations are within a manageable level. Other small game species are doing well with increases in there populations also indicating a lack of predation pressure.

**COMMENTS:** This proposed project is an augmentation to existing populations of bighorn that exists in the Santa Rosa Range. Release of bighorn into the Martin Creek drainage would expand bighorn use of this mountain range. This would bolster the small population that exists in Martin Creek from the 2006 release.

**NDOW REGION:** Western

**DATE PREPARED:** July 2009

# BIG GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

**SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES:** Rocky Mountain Bighorn Sheep Reintroduction FY2010-11

**APPROXIMATE NUMBER TO BE RELEASED:** 30

**RELEASE SITE:**

**NAME:** Ferguson Mtn., Goshute Range, Unit 106

**COUNTY:** Elko

**LEGAL or COORDINATE DESCRIPTION:** T30N, T31N, R69E

**COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY:**

Bureau of Land Management - Elko District.

**AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT:**

Bureau of Land Management Wells Resource Area Management Plan.

**OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:**

Pending NEPA documentation including an EA that will address a change of livestock class by the current permittee from domestic sheep to cattle.

**NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS:**

BLM will be contacted at least one month in advance of release to allow BLM to notify livestock permittees. The Elko County Advisory Board to manage wildlife and local sportsmen groups will be notified of the projected release date.

**HABITAT EVALUATION:**

A habitat evaluation by several NDOW biologists indicate there is ample summer and winter range to support bighorn populations although there are large areas that are somewhat limited because of relatively heavy tree cover including P-J at the lower elevations and mahogany and white fir at higher elevations. Water is available at limited spring sources and there is opportunity to enhance habitat availability through future guzzler construction.

**PREDATOR EVALUATION:**

No serious problems identified since deer and associated lion populations are at low levels. It is possible that a few mountain lions may encounter bighorns primarily during the winter as they follow migrating deer into the area.

**COMMENTS:** This release is contingent upon the BLM and the permittee working out an agreement for an exchange of livestock class on the allotment and an environmental assessment that assures that range conditions will not be adversely affected by that change.

**NDOW REGION:** Eastern

**DATE PREPARED:** August 2009

# BIG GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

**SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES:** Pronghorn Antelope Augmentation FY2010-11

**APPROXIMATE NUMBER TO BE RELEASED:** 100

**RELEASE SITE:**

**NAME:** Delamar Valley

**COUNTY:** Lincoln

**LEGAL or COORDINATE DESCRIPTION:** T6S R63E Sec. 26

**COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY:**

Ely District Bureau of Land Management

**AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT:**

The Caliente MFP allows for returning native fauna to historic ranges or improving population numbers in current use areas. Two water developments are planned at this time that should allow antelope to utilize areas away from livestock use areas.

**OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:**

Operation Plan - To be developed cooperatively by BLM and NDOW.

**NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS:**

Contact BLM at least one month in advance of release to allow BLM to notify livestock permittees and other affected parties prior to release.

**HABITAT EVALUATION:**

Delamar Valley has large areas of habitat suitable for pronghorn antelope. Currently, pronghorn are found throughout the valley in very low densities. Water sources do exist in the valley but new guzzler construction is necessary to provide adequate water distribution before a pronghorn augmentation could occur.

**PREDATOR EVALUATION:**

No predator control efforts are recommended at this time. Moderate to high furbearer trapping pressure in addition to numerous predator calling contests occur in Lincoln County.

**COMMENTS:** The release would be done when source stock becomes available. Should emergency trapping efforts be necessary in other parts of Nevada, this area would be considered for antelope releases.

**NDOW REGION:** Southern **DATE PREPARED:** August 2009

# BIG GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

**SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES:** Pronghorn Antelope Augmentation FY2010-11

**APPROXIMATE NUMBER TO BE RELEASED:** 100

**RELEASE SITE:**

**NAME:** Hamlin Valley

**COUNTY:** Lincoln

**LEGAL or COORDINATE DESCRIPTION:** T8N R69E Sec. 28

**COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY:**

Ely District Bureau of Land Management

**AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT:**

The Caliente MFP allows for returning native fauna to historic ranges or improving population numbers in current use areas. Three water developments were installed in this area for antelope and other wildlife in 1990. Five additional water developments are planned at this time that should allow antelope to utilize areas away from livestock use areas.

**OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:**

Operation Plan - To be developed cooperatively by BLM and NDOW.

**NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS:**

Contact BLM at least one month in advance of release to allow BLM to notify livestock permittees and other affected parties prior to release.

**HABITAT EVALUATION:**

Hamlin Valley has large areas of habitat suitable for pronghorn antelope. Pronghorn are found throughout the valley in moderate densities. Several water sources exist that allow antelope to utilize large expanses of habitat. New guzzler construction is necessary before a pronghorn augmentation would occur to reduce forage and water use conflicts with livestock.

**PREDATOR EVALUATION:**

No predator control efforts are recommended at this time. Moderate to high furbearer trapping pressure in addition to numerous predator calling contests occur in Lincoln County.

**COMMENTS:** The release would be done when source stock becomes available. Should emergency trapping efforts be necessary in other parts of Nevada, this area would be considered for antelope releases.

**NDOW REGION:** Southern **DATE PREPARED:** August 2009

# BIG GAME RELEASE SITE PLANNING AND APPROVAL SUMMARY

**SPECIES OR SUBSPECIES:** Pronghorn Antelope Augmentation FY2010-11

**APPROXIMATE NUMBER TO BE RELEASED:** 100

**RELEASE SITE:**

**NAME:** South Spring Valley

**COUNTY:** Lincoln

**LEGAL or COORDINATE DESCRIPTION:** T8N R68E Sec. 34

**COOPERATING LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCY:**

Ely District Bureau of Land Management, Caliente Field Office

**AGENCY APPROVAL DOCUMENT:**

The Schell Resource Management Framework Plan (MFP) is silent regarding pronghorn introductions due to the fact that South Spring Valley had an existing herd of pronghorn when the plan was completed and there was no foresight concerning the pronghorn herd declining to a point where augmentations could be used to bolster the herd. To date, one water development has been constructed in South Spring Valley for pronghorn and other wildlife.

**OTHER DOCUMENTS AND THEIR STATUS:**

Operation Plan - To be developed cooperatively by BLM and NDOW.

**NOTIFICATION OF USER GROUPS:**

BLM will be contacted at least one month in advance of release to allow BLM to notify livestock permittees.

**HABITAT EVALUATION:**

South Spring Valley has large areas of habitat suitable for pronghorn antelope. Pronghorn are found throughout the valley in fairly low densities. Though several water sources exist to support the current pronghorn herd, it is recommended that additional water developments be constructed before an augmentation occurs.

**PREDATOR EVALUATION:**

No predator control efforts are recommended at this time. Moderate to high furbearer trapping pressure in addition to numerous predator calling contests occur in Lincoln County.

**COMMENTS:** The release would be done when source stock becomes available. Should emergency trapping efforts be necessary in other parts of Nevada, this area would be considered for antelope releases.

**NDOW REGION:** Southern

**DATE PREPARED:** August 2009