

Exhibit B

**Supplemental
Public Correspondence Received as of
March 17, 2026**



Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation
5831 SE International Way
Milwaukie, OR 97222
Info@Oregonfnaws.org
<https://oregonfnaws.org>

March 16, 2026

To: Director Colbert, and the Oregon
Fish and Wildlife Commission

Subject (RE): Minam River Wildlife Area – Final Draft Management Plan

The Oregon Chapter of Wild Sheep Foundation has reviewed the final draft of the Minam River Wildlife Area Management Plan (plan) and would like to express our support for its adoption, and the adoption of administrative rules which do not allow the use of pack goats by recreational users; and domestic sheep in livestock management activities on the wildlife area.

Bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) use portions of the wildlife area throughout the year. These individuals are part of the larger population of the Wallowa Mountains and the Wenaha herd range. The most significant threat to native bighorn populations is respiratory disease (pneumonia) caused by bacteria transmitted from domestic sheep and/or goats. Outbreaks of pneumonia have occurred in bighorn herds throughout their range for decades and generally result in significant population declines. These declines are due to both direct mortality from the disease and poor lamb recruitment for years after the infection occurred. One of the first recorded outbreaks in Oregon occurred in the mid-1980's in the Wallowa Mountains and the Lostine Wildlife Area. As we write this the Department and its cooperators are currently managing a pneumonia related infection in portions of the Hells Canyon herd range.

The most common bacteria involved in pneumonia outbreaks in bighorn herds is *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (*Movi*). Strains of *Movi* carried by domestic sheep are distinguishable by those carried by

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domestic goats and both strains have been identified as causing infections and die-offs of bighorn herds. Pathogen transmission to bighorns is controlled by maintaining effective spatial and temporal separation between bighorn and domestic sheep and/or goats.

We respect the access sought by those that use domestic goats as pack animals, and livestock producers who have domestic sheep as part or all of their economic base. However, allowing domestic sheep or goat use in bighorn habitat is simply not worth the risk to bighorn populations. Best management practices are not foolproof, and the presence of domestic sheep or pack goats in proximity to bighorn populations has the potential for disaster. It only takes one exposure incident to have a pneumonia outbreak with catastrophic consequences that could take decades to overcome.

Although our primary focus is the health and abundance of bighorns on the wildlife area, we support the active management activities outlined in the plan. These actions will provide healthy wildlife habitat for all species, and provide an excellent recreational opportunity for the people that hunt, fish or view wildlife on the Minam Wildlife Area.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for the dedication you have to Oregon's wildlife.

Sincerely,



Craig L. Foster

President, OR WSF

Oregon Wild Sheep Foundation
"Putting Wild Sheep on the Mountain"
www.oregonfnews.org
<http://www.facebook.com/ORWSF/>



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March 16, 2026

ODFW Commission
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

RE: Minam River Wildlife Area Management Plan

Dear ODFW Commissioners:

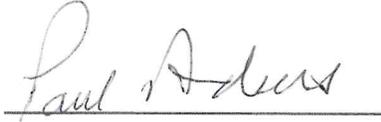
I am writing to express my support for the proposed Minam River Wildlife Area (MRWA) Management Plan. The MRWA has exceptional ecological, cultural and recreational values. It provides a diversity of habitat for species of concern, critical winter range for deer and elk, and over one hundred stream miles supporting Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout. Protection of the MRWA will preserve the natural and cultural values, while also increasing public access to wildlife viewing, hunting, fishing, and other recreational activities.

The proposed MRWA Management Plan details a working lands approach that will expand landscape-scale restoration efforts designed to increase resiliency to wildfire and drought, while also supporting local economies. I strongly support this active management approach. These working lands strategies include timber management, livestock grazing, noxious weed control, riparian restoration, and numerous other management actions benefitting fish and wildlife species. Active timber management and livestock grazing are useful tools to help move toward a desired future condition, as prescribed fire would pose a significant risk due to current fuel loads. The protection and enhancement of high functioning aquatic and terrestrial habitat connectivity will also contribute to climate change resiliency.

The MRWA Management Plan also supports positive economic impacts on rural economies, by supporting outdoor recreation spending, as well as economic contributions from maintaining livestock grazing and active timber management on the property.

The importance of this Management Plan and the significance of the MRWA cannot be overstated. Implementing a working lands approach that provides permanent protection of crucial fish and wildlife habitats along a major migration corridor is supported and encouraged throughout the plan. Your support for the adoption of the MRWA Management Plan is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Paul M. Anderes
Union County Commissioner
1106 K. Ave
La Grande, OR 97850
panderes@union-county.org
541-963-1001



March 16, 2026

ODFW Commission
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE
Salem, OR 97302

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Paul M. Anderes
Union County Commissioner