The Honorable Matt Mead  
Governor of Wyoming  
State Capitol  
200 West 24th Street Cheyenne, WY 82002-0010

Dear Governor Mead,

The undersigned organizations are writing to express our shared concerns regarding the approach and implementation of the Risk Assessment Model for bighorn and domestic sheep now under consideration in Wyoming by the US Forest Service Region 4. Our concerns also encompass the expressed and implied potential for this approach to be expanded to the USFS Region 2 and the BLM in Wyoming.

The Wyoming Wool Growers, the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation and the Wyoming Stock Growers Association have been active participants in Wyoming’s Domestic Sheep-Bighorn Sheep Interaction Working Group since its inception fourteen years ago. In 2004, this group put forth a holistic plan for Wyoming that addresses interaction between bighorn sheep and domestic sheep (“THE WYOMING PLAN”). Most importantly, our plan addresses the viability of Wyoming’s bighorn resource and gives the best scenario for bighorn sheep viewing, recreation and hunting opportunities while at the same time allowing for continued public lands grazing that is imperative to our domestic livestock industries. We believe that the key to the success of the Wyoming Plan is that issues which could otherwise result in conflict are addressed in a cooperative manner. This plan has been implemented successfully by the Wyoming state agencies, livestock industry and bighorn sheep advocates to the benefit of bighorns and domestic producer’s ever since.

We ask that your office endorse the Wyoming bighorn plan and adopt the plan as Wyoming’s official policy. Further, we ask that your office request, in the strongest terms possible, that the Forest Service include the Wyoming plan in its Forest plans for Wyoming Forests in both Region 4 and Region 2 and that the BLM incorporate the Wyoming bighorn plan in its land management plans for Wyoming. We are happy to work with you to achieve these goals. We appreciate your support and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Peter John Camino  
President  
Wyoming Wool Growers Association

Mike Porter  
President  
Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation

Jim Wilson  
President  
Wyoming Stock Growers Association