

Department of the Interior Gives Wild Sheep Project a Go Ahead

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On September 28, 2011 the National Park Service issued a ‘Finding of No Significant Impact’ that should clear the way for the California Dept. of Fish and Game to begin important helicopter related work on behalf of Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep.

The project will involve the capturing and collaring of these magnificent animals beginning later this month, to be followed by a translocation of sheep into the Big Arroyo and Laurel Creek areas of the Sequoia National Park as early as 2012. Predictably, some ‘environmental activist’ groups objected to the use of helicopters in the area. Given that no other reasonable alternative exists, the Park Service issued their finding. NPS did punt some of the approval process to the US Forest Service, but we expect USFS will follow the Park Service’s lead on the matter.

CA WSF sent a letter to the Park Service on this issue earlier this year, as did the Wild Sheep Foundation and the Society for the Conservation of Bighorn Sheep, along with many of WSF’s chapters and affiliates. We would like to thank these great friends for their support!