

# Sheep Grazing in Key North Rockies Wildlife Corridor to Cease

April 20, 2010 Update

[www.predatordefense.org](http://www.predatordefense.org)

Good news! On April 15, 2010, the USDA's Agricultural Research Service released its March 31 decision to cease U.S. Sheep Experiment Station (USSES) sheep grazing and related activities on two allotments in and bordering the Yellowstone Grizzly Bear Primary Conservation Area and to conduct a full Environmental Impact Statement on USSES activities in and around Dubois, Idaho.

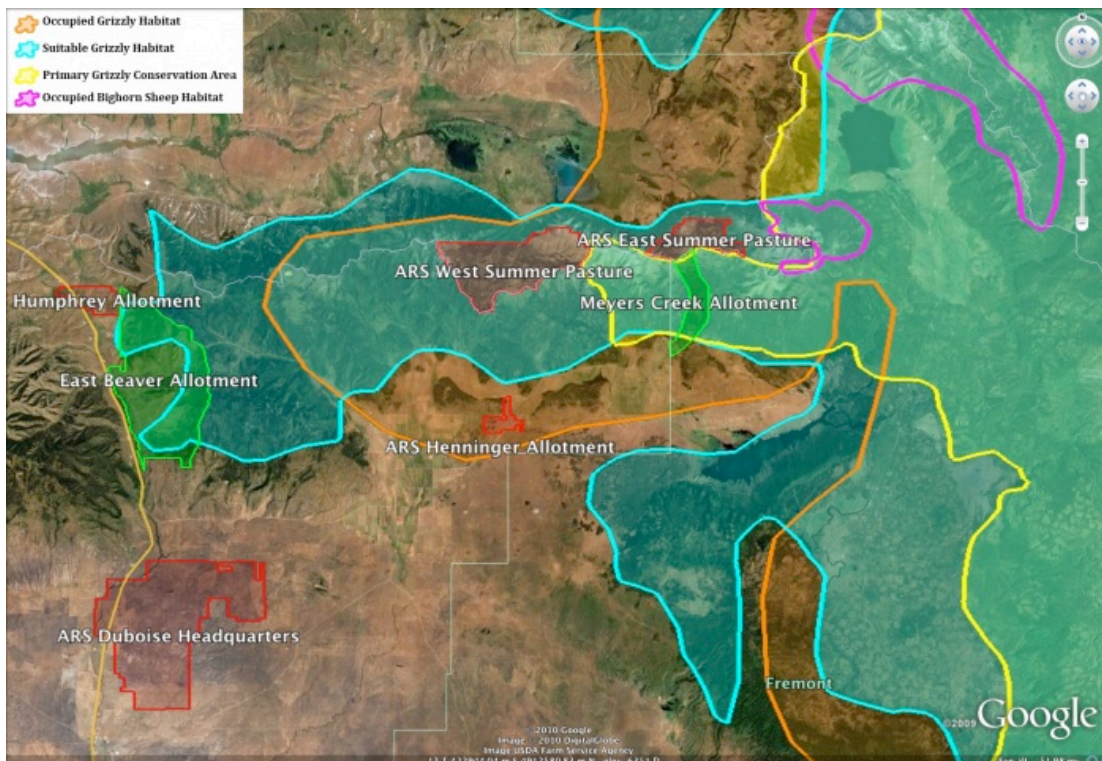
- ❑ Read ARS-USSES decision and related documents at <http://www.ars.usda.gov/News/docs.htm?docid=17878>

Predator Defense, along with other conservation groups, submitted comments to ARS in January opposing grazing activities, particularly in the high elevation Centennial Mountains connecting Greater Yellowstone to the Central Idaho wilderness complex.

- ❑ Read our comment letter at [http://www.predatordefense.org/docs/sheep\\_grazing\\_ARS-USSES\\_comments\\_012510.pdf](http://www.predatordefense.org/docs/sheep_grazing_ARS-USSES_comments_012510.pdf)

The Sheep Station operates several pastures in and near the Centennials. The east-west mountain range represents the single best movement corridor between Central Idaho and Yellowstone for wildlife. Over the last year and a half, two wolf packs were killed because of conflicts with livestock at the USSES and other nearby ranches. Many coyotes and black bears are killed to protect USSES sheep. As you can see in the map below, several pastures overlap or abut occupied grizzly bear habitat.

While the agency's decision is a step in the right direction, Predator Defense will continue to call for closure of the West Summer Pasture as well as the Humphrey and East Beaver allotments, which overlap suitable grizzly bear habitat and remain an obstacle to wildlife movements between the two ecosystems.



Credit: Wildlife News