

Big Horn Sheep Fund

The Indiana Sheep Association board of directors approved sending \$100.00 to American Sheep Industry **in support of efforts** that would stop environmental groups attempting to eliminate grazing on public lands.

Margaret Soulen Hinson, Current ASI president made the following comments in the December issue of Sheep Industry News.

“Western Watersheds Project, an environmental activists group, is using the administrative process, along with the courts, to systematically eliminate the domestic sheep grazing on federal lands under the guise of wild sheep habitat. Even though sheep allotments are only 5% of wild sheep habitat, shutting down the grazing and those ranches impacts 23% of the domestic sheep production in our country! This issue is not just about a few producers; it will impact our entire industry from producers, to feeders, to packers, to woolen mills – right down the line.

Our industry has legislation pending in Congress that will hold lawsuits at bay for five years and allow for the necessary research for vaccine development and strategies to coexist. With the current budget deficits, federal funding will not be sufficient to accomplish this task, we will need to help finance and fast tract this research.

To this end, ASI has established an account for funding this very promising vaccine research and to assist the state sheep associations in their defense of domestic sheep grazing. Please consider a tax deductible contribution. Let’s not allow those who want to end public land grazing to shut down our industry.

We have so much going for us as an industry that we can’t afford to sit idle on this issue **regardless of where** you live or what type of operation you run. Please consider donating toward the vaccine research, and those of you who are generous Guard Dog program supporters are asked to consider donating to both funds. Progress towards our fundraising goal will be tracked on the ASI website, www.sheepusa.org, as well as in the monthly publication.”

This issue is just as important to those of us who live in Indiana. We cannot afford to lose 23% of our sheep industry. Your ISA board encourages you to support ASI with their **efforts to delay or stop the Western Watershed Project.**