

**MONDAY** June 25, 2007

## Conservation groups sue USDA over sheep grazing

BOISE, Idaho (AP) - The conservation groups Western Watersheds Project and the Center for Biological Diversity have filed a lawsuit in federal court today over sheep grazing.

The groups claim the USDA's sheep experiment station near Dubois violated federal rules when it authorized sheep grazing on land around Yellowstone National Park.

The groups contend the grazing puts wild bighorn sheep at risk of catching deadly diseases from the domesticated sheep. And that the grazing threatens other animals, including lynx, wolves and grizzly bears.

Officials with the Agriculture Department could not immediately be reached for comment.