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Organization:

Title:

Comments: In looking at the proposed plan, I see that "sheep and goats" are referred to as if they are the same species and as if they pose similar risk of transmitting respiratory disease to bighorn sheep. This is in fact NOT true. Goats are a separate and distinct species from sheep and should be treated and referred to as such. Research has demonstrated that goats pose far less of a disease risk to bighorns than domestic sheep. Captive commingling studies between goats and bighorns have not resulted in catastrophic respiratory disease. In fact, goats have been found to pose a similarly low danger to bighorn sheep as cattle.

In Chapter 2:09 on page 35 it proposes that sheep and goat grazing allotments be closed or converted to cattle allotments. Given the low risk of disease posed by goats, it would be better to propose converting sheep grazing allotments to either cattle or goat grazing.

When considering recreational opportunities on the Ashley NF, please consider goat packing as an important and growing activity. Goat packing is quickly gaining in popularity and is a very affordable and low-impact way for people to enjoy the backcountry.

Thank you for your consideration,

-Nan