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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello, I'm writing to you about the proposed (Packgoat Ban). I have been using pack goats in Colorado for 8 years now. They are an amazing animal that provide my family with access to remote parts of our State. They are like our family dog and live a very full life. Their health and happiness are our priorities. With that said, I have also started testing them for MOVI to make sure that I'm doing everything to keep them and the wildlife I love healthy.

This proposed ban just does not make sense to me with the number of research papers I have read (painful process) to be educated. The research shows that pack goats are the very healthiest of any domestic goat or sheep. The chance of a person to have an infected goat is less than 1%. I believe anyone with pack animals should test and keep records of the health of their animals. It's the responsible thing to do.

With that state, I think it should also be known that pack goats are very imprinted on their owners. The saying "underfoot" is sometimes an understatement. They hate not being next to you and unlike other pack animals will not run off. Our goats never leave our sides during our backpacking trips.

I do not understand how you can take such a firm stance on a ultra small group of people. However, still always large and often unhealthy herds of domestic sheep and goats roam the hills uncontrolled. Why is there are you forcing us with little power or money but with ultra healthy animals out of the woods? I feel like we are being attacked with very little understanding of what our goats are or how they're used.

As a member of Napga we really care about the wildlife and providing the very highest best practices of packing. I believe wild sheep need all the protecting they can get. However, we have a ton of proactive "best practices" that keep our goats healthy, contained, and tracked to prevent any type of interaction.

Please do not punish Packgoats out of misunderstanding. Please do not rush into this and profile our little group of really caring and proactive practices. None of this makes sense if you allow huge herds of domestic sheep and goats roam the hills uncontrolled. This is insane to even think about. Our animals have the very highest level of care and testing. Our goats are our family pets and are taken care of better than most dogs.

Thank you for considering not banning pack goats.

Jacob Long