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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Chapter 2.3 Wildlife

FW-GDL-WL-05. New authorizations and permit reauthorizations for domestic goat packing should include provisions to prevent disease transmission between domestic goats and bighorn sheep.

Request for Interested Person Status for the Nez Perce Clearwater Forest Plan - Objection regarding any language that limits the use of Packgoats in anyway to protect Bighorn Sheep. Reference to the statement above.

Packgoats need to be on the recreational use list, and not be included in any closures on the National Forests to separate them from Bighorn Sheep. There is no evidence that a packgoat has ever passed any illness causing pathogens or disease to Bighorn Sheep. Attached to this email you will find the "North American Packgoat Association Summary of Understanding" regarding the only known scientific evidence of Packgoats and Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae and its relationship to Bighorn Sheep. We are a small minority of users that do not deserve to be disenfranchised from using our public lands with no evidence to justify this burden.

Additionally I would like to suggest that the designers of this forest plan revision for the Nez Perce Clearwater consider recommending the North American Packgoat Association Best Management Practices. A copy of these practices are attached and are easily found online at the North American Packgoat Association website. This Association is the nation's leading experts on how to safely recreate with pack goats.

Member: North American Packgoat Association, American Goat Federation, and Wild Sheep Foundation