

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/18/2024 7:21:13 PM

First name: Theresa

Last name: Mercer

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am requesting to be listed as an interested person for the Nez Perce-Clearwater NFs Forest Plan Revision #44089. I would like to attend the objection resolution meeting, as well as have the opportunity to comment at the meeting.

I applaud the common sense, based on science, the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forest Plan Revision (released November 2023) which did NOT include closures to pack goats. Instead, it included the following Standards:

*FW-GL-WL-03. Recreationists utilizing pack goats have access to educational materials including best management practices for avoiding contact with and reducing the risk of disease transmission to bighorn sheep.

*FW-STD-WL-02 To prevent disease transmission between wild sheep and domestic sheep and goats, domestic sheep and goat grazing (excluding pack goats) shall not be authorized in or within 16 miles of bighorn sheep occupied core herd home ranges.

*FW-STD-WL-03. New authorizations and permit reauthorizations for domestic goat packing shall follow best management practices and include provisions to prevent disease transmission between domestic goats and bighorn sheep.

I oppose the packgoat-related objections raised by Mike Schlegel of the Idaho Wild Sheep Foundation. Use of pack goats should not be restricted or prohibited in the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF. Nor should Mr. Schlegel's comment be permitted. He did not comment during the required comment period dates.

I also oppose the packgoat-related objections raised by Jace Hogg of the Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation. The use of pack goats should not be regulated, restricted, or prohibited in the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF.

I previously commented on the Nez Perce-Clearwater NFs Forest Plan Revision #44089 on December 23, 2019. See attached for the letter I submitted at that time.