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First name: August

Last name: Quast

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Why are they being removed? Are they not part of what attracts visitors to the park? Killing the remaining ones? Disgusting poor decision on the part of "wildlife management"! I remember a man being killed by one, which is tragic, but teach people to not approach the goats, or avoid them if possible...like all wildlife one would encounter in the park. Have the rangers educate visitors on how to respect both the animals, and the park itself...Leave No Trace, Stay ON the path, if you pack it in/pack it out and don't approach or feed wild animals. People as a whole need to realize that venturing into the wilderness involves risk, you have to be prepared to take that risk to enjoy what nature has to offer. If you are not willing to take that risk, then perhaps those people should stick to the viewing it from the safety of a car window? Removing and killing animals who are already established within the park should not even be an option on the table! In regards to the debate on whether they are a native species or not, it's kind of a moot point now, they are already established in the park. They are native to Western WA, which means they pose no environmental harm to the park. Besides, they are living, breathing, feeling creatures deserving of our compassion, and protection like any other. In addition, most nature enthusiasts that would pay a visit to the park, come there with the expectations of viewing not only the grandness of the park itself, but also the wild animals that inhabit it. I remember once being on Hurricane Ridge with a group of boy scouts, a black bear came out of the clearing below, and the entire two bus loads ran to the edge of the railing shouting in excitement. THAT is what they came to see, the park, along with all of its inhabitants. By removing the goats, you will be destroying more than you realize, you will be destroying the child within all of us that longs to be one with, and experience nature as a whole...in all of its raw, untamed glory!

Thank You for considering my thoughts on this matter, August Quast