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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hi, I'm commenting regarding use of pack stock, particularly packgoats as it pertains to the current plan. I want to start by saying I would like to see pack goats added to the list of recreational activities. We travel up a handful of times a year to hike and pack with our goats in your forests, for hunting and recreation. Our stock is part of our family. Goats have much less impact to the forest lands than horses, (I also have horses and used to pack with horses).

Furthermore, there is no scientific basis to ban pack goats. Not only is would you not take sick stock packing, and your stock would not ever come in contact with wildlife. Domestic goats are not a transmissible reservoir (fomite) to wildlife such as bighorns. I'm not only saying this as a goat owner, but as an animal scientist (BS at CSU, CVT and SRT) working for a private research company, I manage our research herds that have to maintain SPF (pathogen free) status. There is no scientific basis for a ban. I would be willing even to make sure have 30 day health certs from our vets, even though that is unnecessary, just to make sure we can visit some of our favorite places. By visiting these places we contribute to the local economy as well. Please contact me with any questions you have regarding disease transmission within caprines and ovines, it is my specialty. If not I really urge you to reach out to actual practicing veterinarians and researchers that specifically know about small ruminants.

Thank you for your time.

A~