

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/16/2019 4:31:25 PM

First name: Clancy

Last name: Clark

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I would like to express my concern and objection to the proposed ban of pack goats on the GMUG districts. I contend that proposing to ban pack goats with no scientific research to show that they are a threat to the health of Bighorn Sheep, is a violation of the rights of pack goat enthusiasts. I suggest to you that this proposed action is based on speculation only, and therefore not defensible.

As a professional ruminant nutritionist, I understand well how scientific research works. To my knowledge, there is no legitimate, statistically significant research anywhere to show that pack goats are a threat to Bighorn health. If you have such research, I would appreciate knowing about it. If there is none, I intend to defend my right to use pack goats on our public lands.

Secondly, I believe that to group goats and sheep together in management planning is flawed logic, as they are separate species.

Therefore, I request that the proposed pack goat ban on page 27 be removed.

I also request that pack goats are removed from the wording on page 143, "To increase awareness, educate partners and visitors of the potential for pathogen transmission affecting native plants and animals (e.g., recreation pack goats and bighorn sheep, the need to decontaminate wading boots to reduce spread of chytrid fungus, or whirling disease, etc.)"

Finally, I request that pack goats are added to the list of recreational activities under "Public Enjoyment" on page 8, as we are a legitimate user group.

Thank you for your time and for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely, Clancy Clark