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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Re: Packgoat ban

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on there GMUG Forest Plan.

My husband is an avid hunter and we both hike. Our four grown adult children have followed suit with their children. Now that we are getting older we have taken on the assistance of our most incredible, loyal and affordable packgoats. They make it possible for us to continue our beloved hobbies. Which they do for other groups, such as the elderly and the disabled.

The scientific name for a goat is *Capra aegagrus hircus* and the scientific name for sheep is *Ovis aries*. These animals are two different species. I have not heard of or seen any documented scientific studies that show packgoats being responsible for transmitting disease to bighorn sheep.

If you go through with this ban you would be losing money from backpackers, hikers, hunters, all in state and out of state residencies. I am sorry to say but we would be taking, along with many others, our tourism and recreational activities elsewhere.

Please consider including goat packing in the activities important to GMUG NF, listed on pg. 8 of the Land Management Plan. Remove the ban that is on pg. 27 and the reference to packgoats on pg. 143, it does not apply.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.