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Organization:

Title:

Comments:

Hi, I have been a pack goat packer in Lone Pine, CA., Inyo NF. for 5 years. We have traveled to CO 3 times, spending time in each of these forests. During our travels, we have obviously added to the economy in many ways.

The bonding and training that goes into creating a pack goat, sets the pack goat and packer apart from domestic goats and their owners.

Please do not include pack goats and their packers in any banning because they stick together on the trail and in camp. We low line all the time and can hook them together and with us while hiking.

Inyo NF in their 1st Draft Plan, explained very well the difference between domestic and pack goats. It also states the value for others Forest users, such as people with disabilities.

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Nelson's Desert Bighorn Sheep

Effects of the forest plans on the Nelson's desert bighorn sheep would occur regardless of the alternative selected because actions by the Forest Service are not responsible for either the outbreak or continuation of disease contact or spread. Therefore, it is not within the capability of the Forest Service to ensure that this population on the Inyo National Forest persists over time.

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The risks of disease transmission from recreational pack goat use is currently very low due to limited trails and very low use levels in the areas occupied by this species. Also, pack goats are generally kept in close proximity to handlers, which minimizes the risk of direct contact with bighorn sheep.

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Concerns that prohibiting pack goats in wilderness, particularly on the Inyo National Forest, would impact seniors, children, and people with disabilities who rely on pack goats to access these areas.

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Concerns were also raised that prohibiting pack goats in wilderness, particularly on the Inyo National Forest, would impact seniors, children, and people with disabilities who rely on pack goats to access these areas. No changes regarding the use of pack goats within wilderness are being made under the current forest plan revision process. Wilderness areas are currently open to the use of pack goats. However, further determinations of the appropriate use of pack goats within certain areas may be made at the project level.

Please do not blanket ban Pack goat use in your forests.

Thank you...Clark Trowell