Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/25/2019 10:20:46 PM
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Title:
Comments: Please change plan regarding pack goats.
Advantages of allowing goats:
- allow exercise and backcountry access for people unable to carry their own packs (people with arthritis, disabled Veterans, etc)
- allow backcountry access for people who can't afford/transport larger pack animals
- keep wilderness pristine by allowing people to access backcountry without use of UTVs
- promote ecotourism with an activity that is attracting new participants
- promote hunters to pack out without using UTVs

Goats have not been shown to transmit Mycoplasma ovipneumonia (MOVI) to bighorn sheep in the wild and in an experiment were shown to transmit a strain that was non-lethal
https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0178707

Domestic sheep have been shown to transmit lethal MOVI strain yet there is no proposal to ban.
https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0110039

Furthermore packgoats move transiently through an area therefore the risk of transmission is negligible. The number of goats also would be perhaps up to 12