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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Hello and thank-you for your consideration of my requests.

My daughter is a recent graduate of Colorado State DVM program and has lived in Colorado for the past five years. She has fallen in love with the many opportunities that are available throughout the state to outdoor enthusiasts. I as a packgoat owner would like to join my daughter in experiencing the back country areas of Colorado.

The proposed ban restricting packgoats from accessing the forest found on pages 27, and 143 of the proposed new GMUG shows no scientifically proven reasons to keep goats out of the areas and I would like to see this notation removed. Domesticated goats don't typically transmit diseases to sheep and there are no studies that prove a transmission of any disease from a goat to the Big Horn Sheep exists.

I would also like to see packgoats included in the recreational portion of the plan, page 8. Packgoats are trained animals that stay within their small herd to travel from a starting point to a destination carrying equipment of the people they are hiking with. It is in the best interest of hikers to keep their goats close to them. Since these goats are carrying a fair load, they must be in top physical shape. As with mules, horses, and llamas, goats are another domesticated animal being used for the purpose of enjoying our public lands.

I have been trained as a Master Trainer in Leave No Trace and as I have gotten older my desire for the back country still remains, but my body won't let me carry the weight it once did. My research for a solution has brought me to the use of goats. Their footprint is minimal and blends with the deer and elk already in the forest. They are able to sustain themselves on deadfall and brush as they travel so there is no need to introduce outside feed to the eco-system. Their digestive process typically kills seed germination. Goats are a low impact on the environment they travel.

I may not be a frequent user of these areas, but I would like to be able to enjoy spending time with my family through the use of my goats. Please consider the impact of banning goats into the forests without any scientific research performed and add pack goats to the list of recreational options.

Thank-you for your consideration,
Margaret Scott