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Title:

Comments: I would like comment on the ban for Pack Goats on the GMUG.

The GMUG is host to a variety of flora and fauna, including populations of approximately 55,000 elk, 145,000 deer, 530 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and 150 desert bighorn sheep. The GMUG is also home to a new moose herd on the Grand Mesa, with a population of more than 150. (GMUG website)

I understand the need to provide a good clean environment for the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and the desert bighorn, but do not agree that allowing pack goats could harm these herds.

Pack goats are kept under supervision with the individuals that are using them for hunting, camping, boating and other forest recreation. This doesn't allow for interaction with the bighorn sheep populations.

The Risk Analysis https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd541057.pdf document did not provide compelling data that would support a ban on pack goats. Since domestic sheep are still allowed in the plan it stands to reason that pack goats should be allowed as well. Domestic sheep are allowed to graze and can get well outside of the visual control of the shepherd, while a pack goat would be kept at camp and monitored.

I would like to see this part of the plan consider pack goats not a threat to the bighorn sheep.