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Comments: As an infectious disease researcher and citizen who enjoys our public lands, I find to propoal to ban llamas from AK's public lands unjustified by the science that I have reviewed. Although it is possible I have missed something; the facts here seem very straightforward; notably the lack of evidence of disease transmission camelids and other quadrapeds. Notably, the same cannot be said for horses or humans, it is my understanding that both have been shown spread disease to wild sheep.

In the absence of evidence that llamas present a much larger risk than humans and/or horses to wild sheep, it is difficult to understand the desire to ban llamas unless this decision is motivated by economic rather than scientific concerns. By economic concerns, I refer to a desire to protect local interests that outfit with horses.

This would be disappointing and unacceptable; the management of America's public lands should be driven by the science. If, as I believe the facts show, llamas represent an alternative that presents equal or lower risk to wild sheep (and which do much less damage to the fragile alpine environment are a an easier animal for most Americans to own, train and house...), the federal land managers should not stand in the way of progress by banning llamas.

Thanks for considering my perspective,