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Comments: I have been a pack goat owner for 21 years and I live in Utah. I am deeply concerned about the incorrect blaming of goats for transmission of disease to bighorn sheep. On page 12 of the preliminary plan the following statement is made: "Sources of these diseases are generally domestic sheep and goats." This is not a true statement about goats. There are no documented cases of goats transmitting the MOVI virus to bighorn sheep.

Unfortunately, as new forest revision plans are drafted, those who write them are jumping on the anti-goat bandwagon and using the same erroneous information that was used in the first forest revision plan (Shoshone National Forest) that falsely implicated goats. Goat packing is becoming an often used method of transporting gear into the mountains. These closures will negatively impact many recreational users of the national forests.

My experience with the goat packing community is that we are a very responsible group of national forest users and that we are committed to preserving our forests and the wildlife therein. We keep our animals healthy, and we control them at all times. They are also highly bonded to their owners and will not range far from us. They should not be put in the same category as goats that are used for weed and brush control.

I am asking that you rewrite your plan in a way to not exclude pack goats from bighorn sheep areas.