

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 1/3/2020 3:18:30 AM

First name: Rychael

Last name: Morton

Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my thoughts and feelings regarding the revision/draft regarding the banning of goats in Nez Peace/Clearwater National Forests. Pack goats are a true passion for myself, family, and many friends. For many of us who cannot afford the annual costs of horses, pack goats are a dream come true to enable us to hunt, fish, and hike into remote areas of Idaho that we otherwise would not be able to. I understand the concerns stemming from the forest service, Wild Sheep Foundation, etc. However, running a small/CAE tested group of pack goats that rely on their owner for comfort and never leave their side is much different than a herd of 1000 free range sheep that may actually come in contact with wild sheep. Pack goat owners are very passionate about what they do including nature and by no means would ever want to jeopardize the populations of wild sheep. The odds of spreading disease to wild sheep via goats is very slim and goats cannot pass on a disease on that they don't have (almost all goat owners test their goats and anyone who buys a pack goat wants to know the herd they came from is disease free). I kindly ask for this draft to be reconsidered and to not have goats classified in the same category as sheep as these are species with very different DNA and do not express the same odds of spreading disease to wild sheep. Instead, I believe the efforts should be made to boost wild sheep immune systems vs banning a sport/passion that allows people access Idaho's scenic and remote beauty. Thank you for your time and efforts to keep Idaho great.

Best regards,

Rychael Morton