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Comments: I would like to thank those working on this plan for rewording the portion of the last draft concerning pack goats. The new draft is improved, however, I still think it doesn't consider the huge differences in how pack goats are used in the forest as compared to herds of grazing sheep. Thank you for continuing to consider these differences when preparing your next draft.

I live near the four corners, where I work in public land management. In my free time, I enjoy hiking with my husband and our five goats in Colorado National Forests. My goats are bottle fed, and never stray far from my side. If they feel in danger they run to me to protect them, not away into the forest. Unlike dogs they do not chase, bark, or otherwise harass wildlife. In fact, they have no interest in getting near wild animals at all. At night they are tethered next to my tent. They wear bells so if anything is causing a disturbance they will wake me up and I can intervene. There is never a time when my goats are out of my sight and hearing. There is never a time when my goats would be allowed to approach or interact with wildlife in any way shape or form. My goats see a veterinarian regularly and I would not take them out if I didn't know for sure that they are healthy. My goats are individually tattooed and micro chipped for easy identification. This is expected protocol for all pack goat owners in the wilderness.

As you can see this is vastly different from how herds of domestic grazing sheep are managed. Sheep can be in huge groups of hundreds, where as pack goat owners rarely have more than 2 to 4 goats per person in their string. Pack goat owners put a lot of time, money, and love into managing their animals and therefore are much more likely to be aware of any health issues their goats would have than people grazing large herds of sheep. Grazing sheep are not always attended to by their owners, where as pack goats never leave their person's side. On top of all of this, goats are just different animals than sheep, and there has never been a documented case of a pack goat giving M.O.V.I. to a bighorn sheep.

Because of these huge differences in sheep grazing versus goat management, I request that you consider these types of forest use like the completely unrelated things that they are. In practice, goats pose no danger to wildlife, and in fact are much safer for wildlife and easier on the environment and other people than grazing sheep and even companion dogs are. I hope you will consider pack goats separately when writing your management plans, and eliminate verbiage insinuating that goats are a threat to wildlife when there is no data that backs up that assertion.

Thank you for your time in considering this matter. It means a lot to us who enjoy spending time in your beautiful forests with our beloved animals.