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Comments: Please list me as a person of interest in the Nez Perce-Clearwater NFs Forest Plan Revision #44089
My 1st objection concerns a letter you received from Mike Schlegel representing the Wild Sheep Foundation. His remarks are misleading and misinformed. MOVI does indeed exist in domestic goats, however it is rare in packgoats and does not result in bighorn sheep pneumonia. He is correct about the devastating effects of MOVI on BHS but this strain of MOVI is from domestic sheep not goats. This was documented by Dr Besser in 2015. The Wild Sheep Foundation contributions to BHS conservation is substantial and I respect that. However, they have invested a lot of effort in persuading land managers to remove packgoats from our National Forest. There has never been a documented case of packgoats ever transmitting MOVI to BHS. Additionally, there has never been an MOVI transmission risk analysis to establish if packgoats pose a related threat to BHS. It would be the responsibility of land managers such as yourselves to establish this risk before disenfranchising a minority of users who take great responsibility for our animal's health.

Mr Schlegel states packgoat activity is "known to have harmful effect on bighorn sheep". It would be a "tragedy" to allow us to use our packgoats on the NezPerce Clearwater NF. This is unfounded with no evidence and is an effort to play on emotions instead of using the best available science.

My 2nd objection is to a letter from Jace Hogg of Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation. He suggested "The Forest will revise the Plan to include provisions to prevent disease transmission (e.g., requirement for packgoats to be tested and MOVI-free) that applies to all pack goat users relative to areas of potential contact with bighorn sheep and mountain goats." This is an expensive time-consuming test with no evidence of necessity or risk analysis to show it would be of benefit to protect the BHS from a real threat. We have years invested in our packgoats health care to optimize their performance. With this suggestion an additional unnecessary burden is placed on packgoat owners.