Something Presidential... (how I address my HOA newsletters...[meant to be tongue-in-cheek!])

Well, summer arrived, hung around 100 degrees for far too long, and now seems to have fluttered away like a lonely sparrow. But considering how we suffered with the summer heat, at least here in Idaho, a little cooling relief is a welcome thing, to be sure.

The only really notable part of this summer, however, was not the heat, but the incredible amount of our state that disappeared in smoke & flames. Truly, some of the fires we experienced seemed downright 'biblical' in proportion. So much so that entire communities were evacuated for a period, and in the end result, quite a number of properties were destroyed completely.

For me, living in the foothills outside of Boise, it was a special point of note, as right in back of the hills behind my house is Arrowrock Reservoir, and right on the other side of Arrowrock was two of the real killer fires. So, anticipating a possible evacuation of our area, I had to forego hiking for almost all of July & August, whilst waiting not-so-patiently for them to get a handle on the nearby conflagration. Which they eventually did, but hiking still has not occured for a multiplicity of reasons. Hoping to get out next week, but now the rains of fall will have to be dealt with, as we have definitely entered into the weather patterns of that period. Glorioski! In no time at all the snowshoes will have to emerge from hiding.

Regarding the Shoshone NF FEIS, we are still waiting with for the outcome of their deliberations. We were given a publication date of late October. However, even if they appear on-time, I do not have a good feeling about the results here, since we didn't have anything even remotely resembling a viable alternative for goatpackers in the original EIS. Time will tell, but if they and their FEIS are no more accommodating than I expect, our next step will be to appeal their decision, during the 90 days allotted for that action, which will take us into 2014.

After that action, if the outcome is no more favorable than we expect, the only avenue left for us is to follow up with a court action. Whether or not we can pursue that route will depend completely on our membership's support as no court action is possible without the application of great piles of money!

It is my express belief that we MUST prevail here in the first of the national forests to attempt to discriminate against goatpackers, as there are a number of other national forests reaccomplishing their forest plans, and anywhere there are Big Horn sheep, goats find themselves solidly in the crosshairs of the forest's elimination actions. Without prevailing in the Shoshone, there isn't much chance of preventing this action in other locations.

As it now stands: Most of the Wind River range is closed to goatpackers, as is some of the Inyo NF in CA. Further in CA, there are two other NF's reaccomplishing their land use plans, the Sierra and Sequoia (As of this date, I am not aware just what their exact plans are concerning goats). In Oregon the Wallowa-Whitman is progressing with their land use rewrite, and in that NF, their operative statement is, 'No goats in, or adjacent to Big Horn sheep habitat'. That pretty much takes in the entirety of the Eagle Cap wilderness.

In Arizona, Tom & Teri DiMaggio, long-time goat packing outfitters, have been summarily locked out of one of their traditional guiding areas, and could potentially lose more of their normal forest access. In Idaho, the Clearwater NF is also reaccomplishing their forest plan, but it remains to be seen in that one where goats will fit in... if at all.

Time will tell where this will all fall out, but the storm clouds are definitely on the horizon.
Actually, I erred in saying there hasn't been any hiking, recently, as a week or so ago, I returned from the Carson, WA, Cascade PackGoat club annual campout, and there was some very awesome hikes to be done there!

Upon arrival, however, Carson gave me a dose of the Washington philosophy, and that is, simply stated, 'if youse gonna come here you'all better get used to WET!'

Which it did the entire night I arrived, Thursday, Sept. 5th. Fortunately, Jan & Perry Privratsky hurried me into the fold-down couch in their trailer, so I was spared the indignity of having to put up a tent in the pouring rain.

Friday was a bit off and on shower or two, but then Saturday and Sunday Washington put on a display of its best sunny & warm (Incidentally, Just as Jan kept saying it would 🌞). Beautiful.

The Cascade PackGoat Club of OR/WA held their annual campout on September 6th, 7th, and 8th, 2013. As in previous years the campout was held at a private horse camp in the beautiful Columbia River Gorge. The camp borders Trapper creek and is a beautiful setting with many hiking trails nearby. Thursday night and Friday morning we had torrential rain with thunder and lightening but then it cleared and the rest of the weekend was great weather. Friday afternoon we hiked to Falls Creek Falls, what a gorgeous site! Friday we hiked the Big Hollow trail, which connects to the Dry Creek trail and brings us right back to our camp. This was an eventful hike as I fell off a log into Bourbon Creek and had to hike 4 miles in wet clothes and Kim Wright got stung on the rear end by a bee. [I just can't help noting that I took one look at this log, and said, "There
ain’t no way! Maybe that’s because I am used to ‘DRY’ and that log looked like an ice skating opportunity. Not being an adept ice skater I found another route across this creek! [Ed. Larry]

Our club was honored that the President of NAPgA, Larry Robinson, joined us for the weekend. We also had an assortment of goats, several dogs and a mini-horse named Anastasia! We had fantastic potlucks both Friday and Saturday night and enjoyed a fire courtesy of R.C. Kline. [Truly, ‘RC’ is a great fire-builder and maintainer! Ed. Larry]

Jan Privratsky
Sec./Treas. Cascade Packgoat Club
Lebanon, OR
Life’s an adventure... especially with goats!

Hello Everyone, The annual SOLVE Oregon Beach Clean-up is Saturday the 28th of September. The Cascade Packgoat Club has been participating in the spring and fall cleanups for many years and we plan to help this year as well. We will meet at Beverly Beach State Park at 10 am. Beverly Beach is located 7 miles north of the Hwy 20/Hwy101 intersection in Newport.

I know that the Powell’s, Kline’s, Wright’s and myself plan to attend. Anybody else? Let me know.

After working hard to clean our beaches we will have lunch at Szabo’s restaurant and talk GOAT :-). Any questions, email me.

Jan Privratsky
Sec./Treas. Cascade Packgoat Club
Lebanon, OR
Life’s an adventure... especially with goats!
The email below was received on the 26th of August, we are hoping something good for goats comes from it. We have decided we will part with any Packgoat they are interested in except the geriatric “Boys”; “Mudslide”, “Clark”, and “Cochise” (who all had their teeth floated).

I have a good friend, who is the director of performing arts at UCLA, who was a clown for Ringling Bros. for several years, who said the “Boys” would be taken very good care of. This is my biggest concern, and is why we backed away from the past movie deal.

Also, the **Paradise Ranch Packgoats** hybrid breeding program has just took a “Huge” step up with the purchase of 10 semen straws from “Gum Bo”, the ABGA, recently crowned, 2013 National Grand Champion. This “Bad Boy” is only 9 months old and has been crowned the “Best” Boer Buck on this continent, he is a masterpiece. Can’t wait to see what might show up at the “Rendy” auction next year eh?

Also, even **BIGGER**, we are arranging a “Flush” with the Menger Ranch, out of Texas, using another spectacular buck named “Slam Dunk”. We are purchasing the flush doe from them also (and all the surrogate does), she hasn’t been born yet so the results of this “Adventure” won’t appear until late next year. So when **Paradise Ranch Packgoats** said we are downsizing, but also upgrading we weren’t kidding. You haven’t seen anything yet, the best is yet to come!

Happy Trails, Dwite & Mary and all the “Boys”

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From: Ziegler, Jessie, To: Dwite Sharp
Subject: RE: Goats in the Circus

Hi Dwite,

Thank you so much for your reply. You have some very good-looking goats and clearly care a lot for them. I think Kansas is close enough to Florida that my superiors might be interested. The other person that needs to be happy with the goats is the animal trainer and handler that will be working with them, so I will also send your email and pictures off to them. I really appreciate you quick reply and on behalf of Feld Entertainment, Inc. and the Ringling Bros and Barnum & Bailey, we really appreciate your support.

Thank you,

Jessie Ziegler, DVM
Associate Veterinarian
Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus
Ringling Bros. Center for Elephant Conservation
Cell: 360-920-6258
E fax: 800-886-4937

We experienced a thrilling but very sad day yesterday at the Sprint Center in Kansas City. We were treated to a day at the Circus by Ringling Brothers & Barnum and Bailey. If you haven’t been to their Circus in a while, I highly recommend going. It really “IS” the “GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH”. What a presentation!

On arrival, we were parked inside their compound and surrounded by the trainers, handlers and veterinarians as we unloaded and introduced our “Boys”. We led them into the building past all the “Big” cats. They had covered the cat’s cages up, but that didn’t help much, the “Boys” could smell them even before we got them out of the truck and weren’t too impressed. We placed them in a pen, and were taken to our $90 seats inside the Sprint Center where we witnessed a spectacular show. What a “Thrill”.

The sad part came when we had to leave without our four “Boys”, Luigi, Valentino, Yukon and Denali. Their lives as goats were truly lived in a paradise until now. They will never see freedom again, or experience Mother nature’s endless buffet in our pastures. They will never again walk with us down our trail of life. What a sacrifice we have forced upon them. I will miss them forever!

The monitary gain was miniscule and was not the purpose of this transaction. Selling them as market goats, for butcher, would have brought in twice as many dollars. The idea was to get a better quality of goat involved to help educate the general public about our caprine friends. I truly hope my sacrifice of Luigi, Valentino, Denali and Yukon’s lives will make a difference down the road in the future. We sold them for $150 each, that’s all they had budgeted for this act. They will also have to get rid of their pony act to make room for the “boys”. After showing the trainers some of the pictures of the “Band” in attire and action they were interested in acquiring some saddles and purple panniers, so we will work on that next. This may help the Packgoat efforts.

The $600 will be donated to NAPgA.

Happy Trails, Dwite & Mary