

NAPgA Needs Your Help!! A Very Time-Sensitive Request

Especially if you are coming to this year's Rendezvous

Background:

Ever since the closure to goats in Wyoming's Wind River Range, NAPgA has been engaged in a protracted fight and eventual court action to reestablish access to this area by goatpackers, who see this action by government in conjunction with one or more special action groups, as an attempt to cure a very real problem, but with an misguided & errant approach. The facts are, that no evidence exists to indict goats in any Bighorn Sheep (BHS) die-off event, and no scientific research had/has produced any substantive evidence that the government's suspicion that our goats are a clear and present danger to the many herds of BHS that roam the mountain west holds any validity whatsoever. Nevertheless, the ban on packgoats in the most pristine areas of the west not only continues in the Shoshone, but is spreading unabated across the west.

Enter WSU's recent research:

This study, done by Dr. Tom Besser, determined as its results, that 1) mycoplasma ovipneumoniae can be carried by goats, and 2) that this respiratory pathogen possibly can be carried by our goats and potentially spread to BHS by our packers in the extremely unlikely event that they would get loose and enter a BHS herd.

Therefore, in order to potentially invalidate this excuse to keep us out of the forest:

We, in conjunction with a scientist that has stepped in to help us with this project, decided to do a whole-scale testing of our packgoats to see if large percentages of our boys are actually carrying this pathogen. This will necessitate 3 separate tests over a period of time. For many, the first in this series of tests has already been done. Our key friend in this project who is helping with the tests wants to accomplish as many of the #2 tests as possible at the Rendezvous.

Therefore:

If you are coming to the Rendy and bringing your goats, it is essential that you accomplish the first test in the series ASAP.

Please read and follow the instructions below from Dr. Maggie Highland:

For those that I haven't already sampled, I need sample swabs sent to me by June 10 so I can have the results by the end of that week.

If you are coming to the Rendy and need to get your goats sampled, nasal swabs can be requested, and have them send the swabs back to me. For the test to be included in the study, a veterinarian needs to accomplish the samples, then they need to be mailed back to Maggie. If done that way, it would count as their first nasal swab for the study. Should the owner choose to do it themselves, it wouldn't count for the research study but needs to be done so that we can be sure of your goats status by the Rendy. Taking part in the survey isn't absolutely necessary, but I'd hope they'd consider being part of the study and if so, I would need to send them the consent form, survey, and animal identification form.

After the samples are taken by the vet, they need to be *sent to me, not WADDL*. WADDL will charge you \$30-\$40 per sample.

Regarding what veterinarian has to do the testing, it can be, any veterinarian or a licensed veterinary technician. The owner would have to pay their veterinarian's fee, but as a part of the research study USDA would cover the cost of shipping and run the test for Movi at no charge. (Reimbursement will require sampling 2 more times if they live in bighorn sheep habitat states).

The latest date that I would need to receive the swabs would be no less than 7 days prior to when they plan on traveling to the Rendy.

Samples should be shipped on ice pack, overnight. I can work with folks to get sample supplies shipped to them in a small cooler with an ice pack and return shipping label included. The owner can have their veterinarian collect the samples, place them in the box with the ice pack, slap on the return label and drop off at a FedEx (remembering OVERNIGHT shipping).

For supplies or other information:

Maggie Highland

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