



The NAPgA Bleat!

The Official Newsletter of the North American Packgoat Association

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NAPgA Members:

Much has transpired since the last newsletter. The Rendezvous has come and gone, and Curtis King did a great job of coordinating that effort. Summer hiking has now become a happy memory, and it is time to batten down the hatches in anticipation for winter.

Lest you think that with Judge Winmill's decision in the Shoshone a done deal, we are out of the woods and can live happily ever after, consider this: The Blue Mountains is still bent on throwing us out of the woods, there is still a land use plan to be settled in the Inyo, Sequoia and Sierra National Forests, and the new wilderness in Idaho has already threatened to throw all packers out of one of my favorite areas in the White Cloud mountains.

We have our work cut out for us for the foreseeable future. This stereotypical myth of the danger of goats is as persistent as superglue, and it will take a long time and a lot of effort to bring reason into this discussion.

by Larry Robinson

We've been hearing it for years...

"It's a fact that goats cause Bighorn Sheep pneumonia"

Hold on now, maybe not

Thanks to the information found within Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory (WADDL) data obtained via a FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) action, requested by our wonderful attorney, we identified ZERO evidence to support the validity of this persistent claim. None whatsoever. In fact, the test results that we obtained included those using the most recent science in which bighorn sheep were commingled with domestic goats that were infected with "goat Movi". Those tests (histopathology reports) indicate NO PNEUMONIA present, despite claims made by the researcher that bronchopneumonia was found "grossly" (meaning by simply looking at the lungs of the sheep that were killed when they didn't die as a result of the commingling research). This is a crude, and often inaccurate, means of diagnosing disease in the lungs... and *that* is a **fact**.

Bighorn Sheep health certainly *is* a very complicated topic and even those engaged in the research indicate that it is still imperfectly understood. It is academic that studies in this area will continue to be conducted for the foreseeable future.

NOW.. that having been said, this does NOT mean that **everyone** shouldn't be practicing best management

practices. Please get your goats tested for *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* ("Movi") if they haven't been already. At this point in time, it is absolutely necessary for our animals to be Movi-Free in order to assure land managers of our responsibility in the wilderness.

Also, **worm** them regularly. Your goats need to be **tested** for worms, as over-deworming can create resistance to the dewormer, a real problem for goats and sheep. By testing (fecal floats), a relatively inexpensive regimen, you can determine if the deworming regimen is working (Movi testing prices/protocols and worming prices will be posted to the NAPgA website soon).

We ask you to continue supporting NAPgA as we work with the forests to keep them open to recreational goatpacking.

Charlie Jennings,
President, NAPgA

Hey!

National Forest personnel are overworked, usually underpaid, and the system itself is more and more underfunded.

You can help with NAPgA's public relations by volunteering for trail maintenance every summer. Years ago, a few of us cleared 5 miles of trail through an area in the Winds stricken with major deadfall due to a forest fire in 1988.

National Forests depend on volunteers. What better way to be looked upon in a positive light than to volunteer for trail work? It's much better to walk the walk, rather than merely talking the talk.

Charlie Jennings
President, NAPgA

From the NL Editor:

by Larry Robinson

As you well know, there has not been a newsletter for some time. That is at least in part due to the lack of help in accomplishing this NL.

FYI: It is the opinion of some, and I am one of them, that when the NL's dry up, so do the funds.

However, after 11 years of producing NLs, I am at the point where I am needing help, and without that, the NLs will possibly not happen as often as they should.

The Newsletter cannot be effective without input from the membership. It's up to you.