



The NAPgA Bleat!

The Official Newsletter of the North American Packgoat Association

March 2017

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Book Your Calendars for Rendy 2017!

June 15 - 18th, 2017 in beautiful Lake City, Colorado!
Thursday through Sunday.

Guest speakers include John Mionczynski, the father of goatpacking! If you have never had the opportunity to listen to John Mionczynski speak, you are in for a special treat! John has most likely forgotten more about goat packing than most of us will ever learn.

Volunteer service projects will be conducted and beautiful hiking trails abound here for you and your goats.

Here are a few housekeeping issues to follow: Health Certificates are required, so please make sure that you get your goats checked out by a Vet.

Any goats that are showing any signs of respiratory issues or pink eye should be left home.

Please keep your goats contained at all times, i.e., no free ranging throughout camp. Animals should be highlined at all times. Please be considerate of your neighbors.

Bring food to share, as we will be having potluck dinners Friday and Saturday.

See you there!
Charlie Jennings
President NAPgA

[**Click to: Download PDF Rendy Document**](#)

"I'm sure my goats don't have worms, I looked them over and they look fine!"

That was told to me by a fellow goatpacker some years ago who NEVER wormed his goats.

The truth is, every goat will have a worm load, to some extent.

It is our job as responsible goatpackers to keep on top of the parasites and keep our goats healthy. That means, among other things, to worm them regularly, at least twice a year, and alternate the wormer you are using. The reason for that is so that the worms don't develop a tolerance to a particular wormer. Cydectin and Valbazan work for me in the area that I live in.

Either have your local Vet test the fecal samples, or ship a sample off to a testing lab. They will usually test your goats for as cheap as \$8.00 per goat.



From The Training Pen

Spring Training is in the Air



Well unless you've been out snow shoeing all winter, or just plain all out keeping up on your fitness, it's time to start thinking about the fitness of your packers. Depending on the level of your winter outdoor adventures it's time to start thinking about an accelerated conditioning program for your boys. Its time to dust off the hiking boots, pull out the leads, halters and saddles, do the maintenance on the goat trailer and get rolling.

Last June at our NAPgA Rendezvous' in Ukiah Oregon I really got my batteries charged when our good friend in Goat Packing Marc Warnke (Boise ID) lectured on goat conditioning for hunting. Mark starts early in preparation for spring bear hunting and other outdoor backcountry adventures. Marc runs a minimum of one day a week with his goats for a little over three miles. Running or jogging with your goats is not only good for their muscles, lungs, and overall mental fitness, its good for the goat owner as well. I'll be the first to admit that I always seem to have a few extra pounds after the holidays and the motivation to get back into the woods and onto the trail gets my blood pumping.

Another hard charger and Goat Whisperer is Clay Zimmerman (Evanston WY). Clay starts before the snow melts and starts working on conditioning early on, in preparation for the hundreds of miles his boys cover every summer and fall as commercial packing goats with High Uinta Pack Goats. I wish I could hike every day and get paid for doing that. What a life.

Preventing injuries, building confidence, and just plain making your experience in the back country more enjoyable are all worth the fitness preparation that goes into months of planning. I like to start out with daily walks that can stretch up to three miles a day once it starts staying light longer. After work I grab the pepper spray, the walking staff and some peanuts in the shells and head for the refuge. I'm fortunate to have miles of BLM land along the Snake River right at my door step so conditioning is fast and easily accessible. If you're in a rural environment and are forced to walk on roadways to reach that park or area where you can stretch your legs, always throw an orange collar or traffic reflective vest on your boys for visibility. Safety first.

I like to do about six solid three mile hikes spread out over a minimum of three weeks with saddles on before I head to the woods for an overnight adventure. I like train a minimum of two months and slowly work up some weight in the panniers to about twenty pounds or so to get those shoulders, back and

leg muscles in condition before the real deal. Remember your goats are professional athletes and they work for a living. They need all the conditioning that you can give them before you make them your beast of burden. Train to your level but start out slow. Work up to your level of expectation and push yourself. I have an old saying that I used to say to all my girls before they all grew up and moved away. "I'm only as fast as my slowest player". Think about that for a minute. The Navy Seals note that, 'we never leave a man behind'. Well, we never want leave one of our packers behind either. Know your goats and their capabilities by spending lots of time with them in the conditioning area before your spring and summer trips.

Make time for conditioning. You'll be glad you did and your goats will be ready. Enjoy your Goat Packing adventures this year everyone. My thoughts and encouragement are with you because Spring Training is in the Air.

"Long Live The Pack Goat"

Curtis King

Land Use Issues

Hard to know where to start here, there is so much. The most pressing is the deadline to respond to the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak land use plan in Idaho.

This particular wilderness has been a little difficult to understand, as it is a bit convoluted, consisting of at least 3 separate geographic areas, and a number of different land use agencies, all involved in the administration of these areas.

The Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act designates **three areas** as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, including the **Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness** (116,898 acres), **White Clouds Wilderness** (90,769 acres) and **Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness** (67,998 acres). These protected areas preserve 275,665 acres of high mountain backcountry with crystal lakes and abundant wildlife."

Each has its own land use plan, and has to be responded to individually.

This most recent one is the **Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness plan**, and the scoping period for this one ends **March 17th**.

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Cart Driving Class, Greeley, CO

Nan Hassey is teaching a goat driving clinic at the Weld County Goat Extravaganza in Greeley, CO on April 29th. The class starts at 11:00 and is open to the public. People bringing their own goats and equipment are subject to show rules regarding health check and out-of-state health certificates. Cost is \$5 to bring your own goat. Auditing the class is free. For more information about the Weld County Goat Extravaganza visit: https://www.weldgov.com/departments/csu_extension/weld_county_goat_extravaganza
Hassey Website: <http://www.goat-o-rama.com/>

Goat Health/Nutrition and Packgoat Seminar

4/8/2017, Olympia, WA

Edelweiss Acres will be conducting a 1-day seminar focusing on Goat Health & Nutrition, and Packgoats. The date is 4/8/2017, a Saturday from 10 am to 3 pm. The seminar be at Edelweiss Acres' farm in Olympia, WA. Seminar registration is 9:30 to 10 am. There will be a lunch break; bring a sack lunch or go to nearby locations. Many folks have attended these seminars; including many 4H youth.

The seminar will cover:

Session 1: Goat Health Care & Nutrition for All Goats

- * Goat Health Care
- * Goat Nutrition
- * Herd Management

Session 2: All About Packgoats

- * Choosing and Training Packgoats
- * Packing up and Packgoats on the Trail, at Camp and Home
- * Trail First Aid for Packgoats

There will be hands-on time with goats as well as informational hand-outs. Cost for a 1-day seminar is \$25 per person (please contact us for group discounts). 4H cost is \$7.50 per person.

Please give us a call at 360-742-8310 or email us for more information, directions, or to register. You can register at the seminar; info at <http://edelweissacresobers.com/seminar.htm>. Mark your calendars and join us for a great goat experience.

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This picture below is the area encompassed by these three wilderness designations: For this particular wilderness, it seems that the only bone of contention and issue that needs responded to, is on Page 27 of FS document, JMJP Draft Plan_2017_02_10 (105098_FSPLT3_3949644), accessible here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50223>

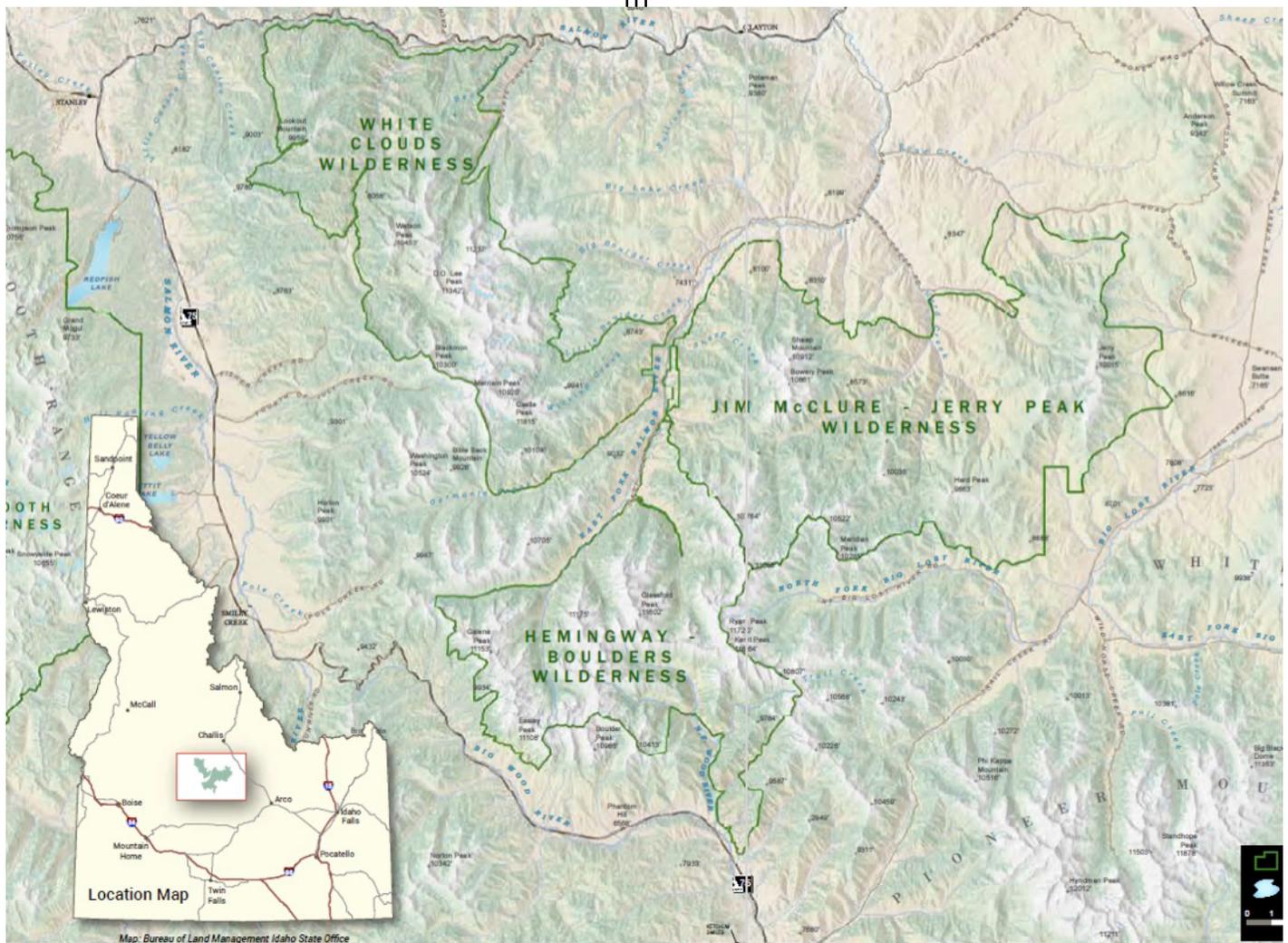
“Require the use of weed-free feed or pellets for stock animals (FS Order Number 04-00-097; BLM Supplementary Rule ID-913-02-4740-04) and in accordance with other FS and BLM policies and closure orders.” (If your first thought is ‘what’s the problem with that, please read that very question by Claire Barker on Page 4 and my response to it)

For this scoping period, those who are interested may review the draft plan and provide comments by March 17, 2017. To access the draft plan, or for more information on the planning process, the wilderness areas, and interactive maps, please visit the interagency project website at <http://arcg.is/2j9GNu4>.

Within this interagency site, you may access the link to the project website for the USFS, or the BLM project site on the ePlanning NEPA Register. Both agencies provide project information on their respective sites, but the documents are the same on both sites. You may also request hard copies or CDs containing the document by contacting the Middle Fork Ranger District at 208-879-4101.

In order to make comments, you may use one these methods:

- Send an email to: comments-intermtn-salmon-challis-middlefork@fs.fed.us. Please indicate “Wilderness Plan” in the subject line. Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an e-mail message, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), and Word (.docx).
- Send a hardcopy letter to: Middle Fork Ranger District, 311 N. US Highway 93, Challis, ID 83226.



And a legitimate question put forth by an interested goat person, Claire Barker

Hi Larry --

...I'd try to at least get a better clarification.

Am not sure how the use of weed free or pellets for stock animals is actually a problem...my understanding is that land use agencies are more concerned that if you *bring feed* for your critters, that it falls into this category-which is understandable.

Though I am not in the camp that all weeds are the result of problem feed and livestock...(I think everyone parking and going in carries the potential for noxious weed spreading)-but I'm not opposed to mitigating my impact under this guideline.

I am just trying to clarify if this caveat is put forth so that:

- ostensibly, goats may not be in the back country without feed-and will therefore be required to pack it in under the weed free product guidelines-or ?
- if it is actually a part of the forest planning to mitigate the potential for people with livestock-bringing in weed infested hay -- I agree...especially since a lot of goat, cattle and sheep folks I know-often use the more "marginal" hays for these species because they can tolerate or even thrive on it-provided it isn't moldy. The weedy state of most trail heads is a testament to the problem...and like I said...that can come in on tires, shoes, car mats, dogs...but we don't need to add to it with heavily contaminated hay...

When I read page 26-whatever on the document-it looks like they are dealing mostly with guidelines on permitted grazing of herds-no goats are mentioned-but neither really are pack animals. Wherever we go-we allow our horses to graze freely in good spots...as I would any herbivorous companion.

I guess I'm just not cluing in to an actual problem?

Can you give me more insight on this before I comment -- if I have the time!

Claire

The Clarification: →

My response...

I know it isn't clear, but in the Sawtooths **right now**, *before the implementation* of the new plan, they **want you to get a permit for your 'stock'**, and **they will tell you to carry feed for them**. The devil is always in the details, and since they are now telling you to carry feed, even if you are hiking with goats, I cannot help but believe that they will maintain their policy unchanged after the implementation of the land use plan, and still require you to carry feed.

From the Shoshone: "The Shoshone is also in the process of retracting all references to the 2012 and 2013 Shoshone RADT reports and all findings and conclusions relied on from the 2006 Payette RADT report and the Payette Principles report from the 2015 revised Shoshone LMP, ROD for the LMP, and final EIS for the LMP revision. It is anticipated that an errata will be published in **December 2016** to formalize the retractions and meet that requirement of the Stipulated Settlement Agreement.

You will notice that they are a little late in their response in view of their originally announced timetable. Wouldn't be nice if they were as rabid about maintaining their previously stated commitments as they are about enforcing those that apply to us.

In the Blue Mountains, they seem to be dragging their feet mightily, in view of the fact that their land use plan was supposed to be in stone by now. However, having to go back to the drawing board due to the wild, uncontrolled response to their first attempt has slowed things down considerably. And *THAT'S* a good thing!

As of right now there is still activity in the Inyo, and the Santa Fe. I would hope that folks in those areas are monitoring where that particular entity is going.

