

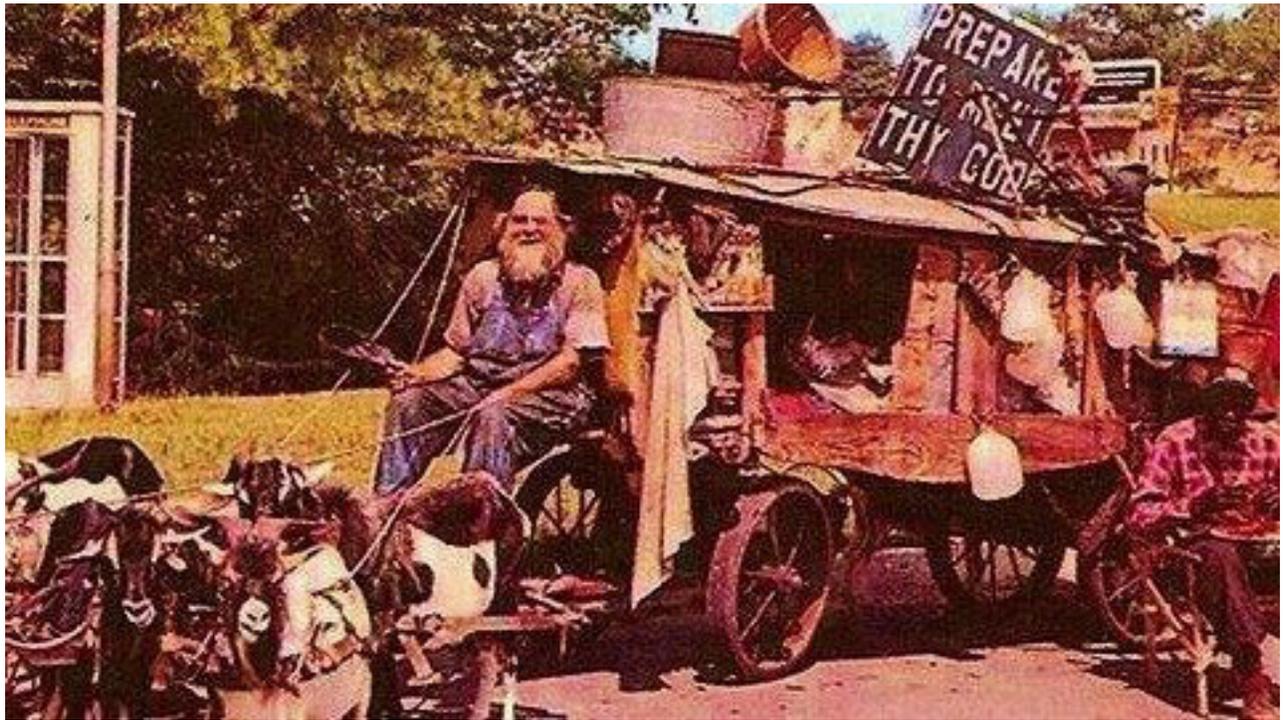
Goat Tracks



Journal of the Working Goat - Fall 2018

Until You Have Loved an Animal, Part of Your Soul Remains Unawakened. --Anatole France

The indoor life is the next best thing to premature burial. --Edward Abbey



**Ches McCartney, The Original Utility Goat Man!
Page 10**

Also in this issue:

Page 6: Land Use Issues, it Doesn't Get any Better with Time!

Page 12 Alaska Proposal to Protect Wild Sheep Definitely Doesn't Protect Local Goat Herds

Page 14: Tincup to the Rescue, Hassey's Goat Sounds the Alarm

Page 16: An Exercise in What Happened, the Perils of Hiking with Larry

Page 19: Goat Packing in the Red Desert with John 'M', a Blast from the Past

Goat Tracks Table of Contents

Page 3 - On Track With Goat Tracks
Larry Robinson, Idaho City, ID

Page 4 - The Mailroom Potpourri

Page 5 - Goats Rescued from Fire, Goats 'n Cops, Floating Goats

Page 6 - Land Use Issues
Larry Robinson, Idaho City, ID

Page 6 - Final plan for central Idaho wilderness area approved, AP

Page 7 - Central Washington Forest Service worker rescued from Wolves by Helicopter
Spokesman Review, Spokane, WA

Page 7 - Selenium Deficiency, a Killer
Dwite Sharp

Page 8,9 - Bighorn Sheep & Disease
Various

Page 10,11 - Ches McCartney, The Original Utility Goat Man
Lauren Ruddell, Planet Goat, Olathe, CO

Page 11 - Proper Goat Hoof Care
[Katie Ockert](#), Michigan State University Extension

Page 12 - Goat genome reveals oldest genetic discovery of domestication
<https://www.earth.com>

Page 12 - Proposal to protect wild sheep could negatively impact local, domesticated herd
[Heather Hintze](http://www.ktva.com), <http://www.ktva.com>

Page 13 - Sparky The Goat Walked The Tonys Red Carpet

Page 14 - Tincup to the Rescue
Nan Hassey, Rye, CO

Page 16,17 - An Exercise in 'What Happened?' The perils of hiking with Larry :-)
Larry Robinson, Idaho City, ID

Page 19-20, - Goat Packing in the Red Desert (With John 'M')
Ellen Herman, Original Goat Tracks Writer

Page 21 - How to say 'Goat' in 90 Languages

Page 22,23 - Road Hiking - One of My Favorite Things... NOT!
Larry Robinson, Idaho City, ID

Page 24 - New study says nutrition, mother health more important to growing large bighorn sheep than genetics
[Christine Peterson](http://trib.com), <http://trib.com>

Page 25 - Here's what the science says about animal sentience
Dr Jan Hoole, The Conversation, <https://phys.org/>

Page 26,27 - Domestic goat dating back to the Neolithic Corded Ware period identified in Finland
<https://www.sciencedaily.com>

Page 27 - DNA from taxidermy specimens explains genetic structure of British and Irish goats
<https://phys.org>

Page 28 - Packgoat Marketplace

Page 30 - The North American Packgoat Association

Page 31 - Working Goat Directory

Goat Tracks

Published four times a year
Subscription: \$24 per year, \$46 for 2 years
(paperless subscribers save \$4)
Canada: Add \$4/yr, Foreign: Add \$12/yr

Publisher

Larry Robinson

Editor & Contributors

Larry Robinson, Nan Hassey
Lauren Hall Ruddell

NAPgA News

NAPgA Board

Contact Information

Correspondence and phone calls to:

Larry Robinson
13 Norwood Place
Boise, ID 83716-3283
(208) 331-0772

larry@goattracksmagazine.org

Back Issues

Only available via the Goat Tracks DVD, or 2CDs
\$60, 1995-Present

Deadline Dates

GT Issues are produced the first week of, March,
June, September & December.

Deadlines are 10 days prior to the 1st of those months.

Disclaimers and Copyright Information

The content of Goat Tracks is at the discretion of the editors. Submissions are subject to editing for clarity and space. We are not responsible for loss or damage of unsolicited materials. Views of contributors do not necessarily reflect those of this journal and its staff. None of the material may be reprinted without the author's or artist's permission.

Items submitted to Goat Tracks retain ownership of the original submitter. No article once submitted to Goat Tracks will be expunged from that Goat Tracks issue after publication.

This publication is open to all advertisers. Ads appearing herein should not be interpreted as an endorsement of those products by this journal or members of its staff. We retain the right to refuse ads containing fraudulent or misleading information.

On Track with Goat Tracks

by Larry Robinson



The Fall issue of Goat Tracks... where does the time go?

Although we got in a number of hiking trips, we also experienced the normal fires and smoke here in Idaho, which certainly hamstrung to a certain degree this photographer/hiker. At this point, the fires have been dampened to a degree by the recent cooler weather, but many of them are still going strong, and we continue to experience closures of our hiking areas.

Land use, and land use plans, continue to be in goatpacking and NAPgA's 'headlines'. Although the Shoshone land use plan, and resultant closures are a done deal, as well as the closure in Idaho's new wilderness, there are still threats ongoing. The Inyo is proceeding towards a closure, and the Blue Mountains want to throw goats out of 'their' forest as well.

While I have to admit that internally I am feeling like Chief Joseph when he famously stated, "I will fight no more forever," it is certainly NO time to throw in the towel. As long as these ill-concieved land use plans contemplate ejecting goats from the forest, we need to keep swinging away.

The saddest part of this entire imbroligo regarding goats is that it is based on nothing more than myth and suspicion. And as such, it is impervious to reason, or factual data. This sort of unsubstantiated nonsense represents an almost impossible nut to crack, and will only be defeated by time, and the necessity for those with the rule-making power to be forced to confront the complete lack of logic and science to support their position.

For me personally, the saddest part of all of this is that these areas that are being closed to me, will never be accessible again in my lifetime, due to the fact that my age means that I am experiencing the last of my ability to access the forest. It cannot be long before the Lord says to me, "...well that was enough." This reality was underscored this past weekend by a visit to my 1st cousin, 2 years younger than me, that is well into the beginning stages of dementia. Twice or three times I was asked the same question in a period of 10 minutes or so. Age is cruel and plays no favorites.

The counterpoint to the paragraph above, is that the time to access the wilderness is NOW! Don't put off taking advantage of what we do have, as one never knows when it will become unavailable to us, due to further government mismanaging, or the loss of our personal ability.



I don't seem to get the type of mail that most magazines receive, so I make this column into a sort of potpourri.

My eMail to Butthead Packgoats & their Response:

My comments:

Sorry for the delay in getting the check deposited. Too much hiking, not enough nose-to-the-grindstone. ;-)

Thank you so very much in keeping up with due dates. You are a large part of keeping the magazine going financially. You are appreciated.

Larry

=====

Butthead Packgoat's Response:

Thank You for your comments

We all love your fine work on your Goat Tracks, Glad you got some hiking in, too much work around here... going hunting soon.

Sincerely Butt Head Pack Goat & Equipment.

My Comments to a Recent News Article:

Jun 19, 2018, Larry <robinson12441@gmail.com> wrote:

The WSF is like a bulldog, they grab hold, hang on, and never let go. Still at it in Alaska.

Larry

<http://www.ktva.com/story/36835394/proposal-to-protect-wild-sheep-could-negatively-impact-local-domesticated-herds>

=====

Response from Desarae:

My heart is just breaking for these people. WSF will not stop to goats are just the start next are llamas then who knows cattle? These are people's livelihoods too not just hobbies.

Even coming out with the recent studies showing other animals were infected with M.ovi WSF took that and put their own twist and agenda on it trying to say it's so bad even other animals are being infected, but what's funny is Bighorn Sheep are most likely the ones infecting this other animals they are the problem! Nobody wants to fix that problem though let's just blame everything else because it's all about the money!

Plum disgusted with WSF... this has opened my eyes to their organization. 6yrs I supported them NO MORE!

Desarae Starck

This was a funny one. I commented on a news article, and you can see the response below:

Message Details:

Subject Wolves

Their Message "Most wolf scientists," he said in an email, "would challenge the idea that wolves spend a lot of unnecessary time, effort and risk running down large prey with no intention of killing and eating it."

My Response: What BS! It has been less than 2 years since a picture was published in one news outlet of a 21 elk 'Surplus Kill', which, of course, is exactly what you deny in your statement that they do. What is it done for? Practice? As always, government talks out of both sides of its mouth, depending what they want to sell on a particular day.

Sent on: 20 August, 2018

=====

Their Response:

Piss off, Larry.

Jenny Niemeyer

=====

My Final (Laughing):

Well, now, that's a great example of maturity.

Y'all have a good day. :-)

Larry

=====

This came from Maggie Highland as a result of a dialogue I had with her a while back:

=====

A Link for those who Travel

<http://www.interstatelivestock.com/>

Here is a link the USAHA has set up for folks to understand requirements for moving animals between states.

Again, nothing specifically about pack goats, but when I looked up traveling with goats from WA to ID, just to visit with them temporarily, it seems to fit into the show goat category for temporary visit.

This will be different for each person, depending on where they are, and where they are going.

Each traveler should look up the info on this website by filling in where he or she is coming from and going to.



Goats Rescued from Garner Complex Evacuation Zone

by Brian Schnee, Wednesday, August 1st 2018
<https://kval.com/news/local/goats-rescued-from-garner-complex-evacuation-zone-08-01-2018>

NEAR GRANTS PASS, Ore. — Three goats were saved from a home located roughly a half-mile from the Garner Complex.

A woman, who had left her property due to a level 3 ‘go’ evacuation notice, was unable to transport her three goats and called the Joint



Information Center in Merlin for assistance.

Two firefighters, Joe Touchstone and Justin de Ruyter, were able to put the goats in one of their vehicles and transport them to safety.



Fort Collins Police Ne-goat-iate Livestock Surrender

By **NATALIE WEBER** | The Denver Post, June 7, 2018
<https://www.denverpost.com/2018/06/07/fort-collins-police-coral-goats/>

Fort Collins police publish pun-filled social media posts about wayward goats

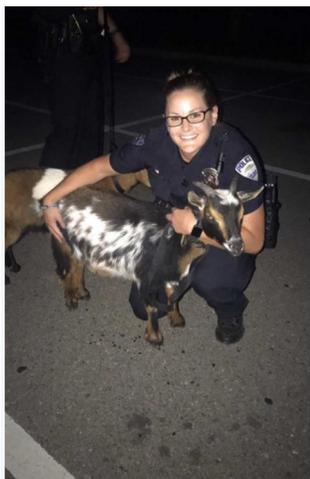
Someone got your goat?

That might not be a bad thing if that “someone” is a Fort Collins police officer.

According to the department’s [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) accounts, officers responded Tuesday night to reports of loose goats near Poudre High School.

Fort Collins police published a pun-filled Tweet as well as a Facebook post, featuring photos of the officers with the goats and a picture explaining the slang word GOAT — “greatest of all time” — which was used in the department’s social media updates.

All the goats were returned home safely, according to the department’s online posts.



Fort Collins Police @FCPolice
 This is about as GOAT as it gets (as the kids say)...
 Officer Sarah and Officer Jacob responded to the report of goats roaming near Poudre High School on Tuesday night. After some ne-goat'iating, officers safely rounded up the loose livestock and returned them home

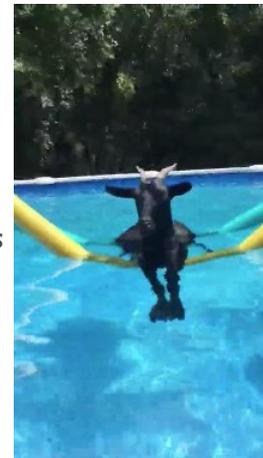
A Goat Afloat to Beat the Heat

By: Casey Watson, Posted: Jun 18, 2018
<https://www.wrbl.com/news/a-goat-afloat-to-beat-the-heat/1246560040>

MELROSE, Fla. - A goat in Melrose, Florida decided it was time to stay cool in the pool, and has received more than 27,000 shares since Friday.

Tinkerbelle the fainting goat belongs to Stephanie O’Brien who owns Goat Slope Farm.

“She was a bottle baby last year before Irma hit,” O’Brien said. “Because of Irma, the goats were brought in to the pool area, and she loved me more than she hated water, so she decided to get in. This year, the water just got warm enough to bring her in again.”



Fire in Colorado

https://www.gazettetimes.com/news/national/more-than-large-fires-menace-the-u-s-west-right/collection_7a0f74f3-4c11-507f-b0a7-4beea2c8d33b.html#8

Veterinarian Dr. Romy Nicoletta, left, hugs a goat while goat owner Karen Bayci bottle feeds one of her baby goats at the Huerfano County Fairgrounds during the Spring Fire Thursday, July 5, 2018, in La Veta, Colo. Button, the mother of the baby goats, has been fighting an infection and has been unable to milk her 2 babies.

Nicoletta oversees all kinds of animals from horses and cattle to goats, dogs, cats, chickens and any other small animals. She owns the Rio Cucharas Veterinary Clinic and is the first woman vet in the area ever. (Helen H. Richardson/The Denver Post via AP)



Land Use Issues

Land use issues continue to dominate our consciousness here in the packgoat world. The reason for that is that every land use plan since 2011 has a section that is dedicated to throwing our goats out of the woods. And as I said in my intro piece, “The saddest part of this entire imbroglio regarding goats is that it is based on nothing more than myth and suspicion. And as such, it is impervious to reason, or factual data. This sort of unsubstantiated nonsense represents an almost impossible nut to crack, and will only be defeated by time and the necessity for those with the rule-making power to be forced to confront the complete lack of logic and science to support their position.”

Therefore, don't look for a turnaround anytime soon, as the current crop of land use directives indicate, with their continued focus on throwing our goats out of the woods.

In the Shoshone:

Our appeal went nowhere. And the final directive changed nothing that we questioned. The one positive note in the Shoshone is that they were willing to sit down and discuss their original closures, and as a result modified considerably the areas we are allowed to access. Their willingness to meet, listen and actually make some changes is virtually unique in the land manager world. It has occurred NOWHERE else!

In the new Idaho Wilderness: The closure in the White Clouds Big Boulder Basin stands as originally written. In spite of the appeals, and discussion with them as to the lack of necessity of removing goats, they changed nothing. And as of its final date, we are officially **out** of this wonderful area that I have hiked several times before (And only saw BHS once... from a great distance).

In the Blue Mountains: There is absolutely nothing to feel positive about regarding this land use plan which takes the position as do all the others, that goats are incompatible with any area that has Bighorn Sheep anywhere in residence. In this area, the entire Eagle Cap Wilderness is the closure area, and that is beyond sad. In 5 separate trips to this area I have not seen any Bighorns anywhere in this entire wilderness. Not on the trails, not in my camps, not near the lakes. The loss of this area, which in my estimation is second only to the Wind River Range, is a profound loss & sadness.

Final plan for central Idaho wilderness area approved

By Keith Ridler, Associated Press, Aug. 10, 2018

BOISE – A final management plan is in place for one of three new central Idaho wilderness areas.

The U.S. Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service on Thursday signed the Jim McClure-Jerry Peak Wilderness Plan.

The plan covers 183 square miles and is described by federal officials as a middle-ground plan when it comes to restrictions on human visitors and activities.

“We believe we have a product that meets the intent of the Wilderness Act and legislation, while providing considerations to the well-being of individuals who use the area for their livelihoods,” Chuck Mark, Salmon-Challis National Forest Supervisor, said in a statement.

The Idaho Conservation League said it's concerned the plan doesn't do enough to prevent pack goats from passing diseases to bighorn sheep. Another concern, the group said, is allowing too many people into sensitive high alpine and riparian areas.

“We're reviewing the wilderness plan as a whole and considering our next steps,” said the group's central Idaho director, Dani Mazzotta.

The Forest Service and BLM have slightly different processes for approving the plan. The BLM process allows a 30-day appeal process. The Forest Service's decision is final and a challenge would require a federal lawsuit.

About 149 square miles of the wilderness is managed by the Forest Service, and about 34 square miles by the BLM.

The plan limits groups to 12 people, and the number of pack animals and saddle stock to 20 per group.

The proposed plan suggested recommending North American Packgoat Association guidelines, which includes precautions for preventing goats from passing diseases to Bighorn sheep.

Mazzotta said that made the goat guidelines voluntary, but that was changed in the final plan to make them mandatory. She said the group wanted goats banned from areas of the wilderness with bighorn habitat and where radio collar information indicates bighorns have visited.

President Barack Obama signed the Sawtooth National Recreation Area and Jerry Peak Wilderness Additions Act in August 2015 after Republican U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson of Idaho got ranchers, recreationists and environmental groups to back the plan.

Simpson had been working on wilderness designation for 15 years, but some groups upset with the delay pushed Obama to designate a much larger area a national monument. That possibility is widely believed to have led to the wilderness bill passing despite opposition, particularly in rural Custer County where some of the wilderness area is located.

The legislation approving the wilderness areas allows continued livestock grazing where it existed before the wilderness designation.

The other two wilderness areas created are the 138-square-mile Hemingway-Boulders Wilderness and the 142-square-

Cont. Pg7, Col 2

Helicopter rescues Forest Service worker who climbed tree to escape wolves

BY ELI FRANCOVICH, *The Spokesman-Review*, July 13, 2018

Two gray wolves forced a seasonal U.S. Forest Service employee into a tree on Thursday.

The seasonal employee was doing a research survey in the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest, in central Washington state, according to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service news release. The employee was preparing for stream surveys in the area.

Before being treed the employee attempted to scare the two wolves, which are members of the Loup Loup pack, by yelling, waving and spraying bear spray in the animals direction. After those attempts were unsuccessful the woman climbed a tree and called for help around 12:30 p.m.

She was near the Tiffany Spring Campground in the Pasayten Wilderness of the North Cascades. According to the Gazette-Tribune the woman was 30 feet up in the air.

"The information we received was that she was 30 feet up a tree with a pack of wolves surrounding it," [Okanogan Sheriff Frank Rogers told the Tribune](#). "The deputies were advised that if they arrived on the scene and the wolves were still surrounding the female they were to shoot the wolves on sight."

However, a Department of Natural Resources helicopter based in Omak, Wash. responded. The helicopter is mainly used for fire fighting efforts. According to Hilary S. Franz, the head of DNR, the helicopter arrived on scene within 14 minutes of the call being placed.

"Our helicopter went in quickly," she said. "We were able to scare the wolves away."

Franz said the approaching helicopter sent the wolves scurrying, which allowed the crew of four to land and get the employee.

"Rescuing a biologist from the wolves is new to me," Franz said.

But she emphasized that DNR crews often respond to non-fire related calls.

Members of the helicopter crew declined an interview request via a DNR spokesperson.

Wolves are federally protected in the western two-thirds of Washington.

A Loup Loup pack den site is within a kilometer of the site where the incident occurred, and GPS collar data from Thursday evening shows at least one adult wolf from the Loup Loup pack in close proximity to the area where the incident occurred, according to a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service news release.

Biologists believe the area where the biologist was treed was a "rendezvous" site and the wolves were likely acting in a defensive manner to protect offspring or food sources. Rendezvous sites are home or activity sites where weaned pups are brought from the den until they are old enough to join adult wolves in hunting activity, according to the release.

Wolves are rarely aggressive toward people. Former Spokesman-Review outdoors editor Rich Landers encountered wolves while hiking with his dogs last summer. For his tips on hiking in wolf country visit spokesman.com/blogs/outdoors/2017/jul/27/video-hiking-safely-dogs-wolf-country/.

At the end of 2017, the state held at least 122 wolves, 22 packs and 14 successful breeding pairs, [the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates](#). That compares with a minimum of 115 wolves, 20 packs and 10 breeding pairs reported at the end of 2016.

mile Cecil D. Andrus White Clouds Wilderness.

Final plan for central Idaho wilderness area approved (cont)

Those two wilderness areas fall mostly within the Forest Service's Sawtooth National Forest and Sawtooth National Recreation Area.

Officials said those two wilderness areas will be managed under a single plan developed by the Sawtooth National Forest with help from the BLM. That final plan hasn't been released, but a proposed plan has been available for comment.

"We're definitely supportive of the Cecil D. Andrus White Clouds and Hemingway-Boulders plan as currently proposed," Mazzotta said.

Selenium Deficiency, a Killer

Several folks out there have asked what should be done when you have a Selenium deficiency in your area or in the area where your hay is grown. This can be a serious problem if not addressed before you have a problem. One issue that can be seen is fallen pasterns on healthy well cared for Packgoats. I "HIGHLY" suggest that you research your area and the area where your hay is grown to see if this is a problem in your area. Your county extension agent can assist you.

Also this may help: <https://mrdata.usgs.gov/geochem/doc/averages/se/usa.html>.

We would prefer that if you have a selenium deficiency in your area that you address it in a very direct way. Selenium blocks are available, but you cannot rely on your goats to ingest enough selenium from these blocks to be effective. We suggest a couple different methods that will insure your goats are actually getting the selenium they need. The first is a BoSe (selenium) injections, given every 4 to 6 months. BoSe is a prescription drug and will require a Vet to either administer the injection or provide you with a prescription to acquire the BoSe. The second choice is actually the one we recommend at this time. A selenium, vitamin E gel that is given orally every 30 days and can be purchased over the counter at a much more reasonable price. It can be purchased at Valley Vet, on line. https://www.valleyvet.com/ct_detail.html?pgguid=50D6622D-C3C0-48C1-90F1-CCDB85563B19.

Too much selenium can be toxic, so for this reason we do not recommend using a selenium block if you use the BoSe or the selenium gel. I highly suggest you address the selenium availability in your area and where your hay is grown, it has bitten several already and should not be taken lightly.

Please ask questions, there are no stupid ones, we are here to help.

Happy Trails,
Dwite & Mary (620 767 7888)

Bighorn Sheep, Disease, etc.

Deadly New Insect-Borne Virus Targeting Arizona Wildlife

By Aaron Granillo, Aug 6, 2018

<http://www.knau.org/post/deadly-new-insect-borne-virus-targeting-arizona-wildlife>

About 30 deer have died since the new strain of epizootic hemorrhagic disease was detected in the West for the first time last year.

EHD 6 is spread through flies and midges, and only infects animals, including deer, elk, and in some cases, bighorn sheep and pronghorn antelope.

“Last year, we saw deer behaving abnormally. Circling and being very depressed,” says Anne Justice-Allen, a veterinarian with Arizona Game and Fish Department. “It wasn’t a large number of deer, but it’s something that certainly catches our eye.”

Allen says weather patterns and other climatic factors brought the disease to Arizona, hundreds of miles from where it was first detected in the Midwest.

EHD 6 is now here to stay, but Allen says animals can eventually adapt and develop immunity.

Now THAT is a fascinating statement! Why don't we hear the same thing said about Bighorn Sheep(BHS)? No, with BHS, we have to make an effort to completely isolate them from every pathogen. Why?? Because BHS bring in tons of money... deer don't.

Zion Bighorn Sheep Herd Infected With Pneumonia

By Lauren Bennett, Aug 7, 2018

Pneumonia has been detected in the bighorn sheep herd at Zion National Park.

A few bighorn sheep in the Zion’s National Park herd have been diagnosed with a sheep-specific strain of pneumonia. While the number of infected sheep is currently less than 10, that number could change every day and two sheep have already been euthanized for testing.

“This specific pathogen is not harmful to humans, or their pets, or even their livestock,” said Jace Taylor, a biologist for the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources. “It can be carried only by wild bighorn sheep and mountain goats and then also domestic sheep and goats. It’s most harmful for bighorn sheep.”

As for figuring out where the animals contracted the disease, biologists may never know.

“We’ll take the samples that Zion’s National Park has collected and we’ll be able to run some more specific tests and try to isolate exactly what strains of pathogens they have and that might help us somewhat,” Taylor said. “But, we may never know.

There is a number of ways they could’ve gotten it. It may be impossible to tell.”

Biologists are asking visitors to report any coughing sheep, seeing as it’s the most obvious symptom of the disease.

“It’s unfortunate but I wouldn’t necessarily say it’s entirely unexpected,” Taylor said. “We’ll do what we can do and have a healthy herd going forward.”

M.ovi bacteria found in Alaska moose, caribou for First Time

By Sam Friedman sfriedman@newsminer.com

http://www.newsminer.com/news/alaska_news/m-ovi-bacteria-found-in-alaska-moose-caribou-for-first/article_c2483014-72d1-11e8-8d6b-dbea85403caf.html

FAIRBANKS — A harmful bacteria previously thought to live only in sheep and goats as been found in additional animals, including Alaska caribou and moose, according to a new study announced last week by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

The study was also the first to link the Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae bacteria (often called simply M. ovi) to respiratory disease in Alaska wildlife. A caribou from the Fortymile Herd east of Fairbanks that carried the bacteria died from pneumonia last month.

The bacteria is so associated with sheep (and their goat cousins) that its name includes the Latin word for sheep, ovi.

In addition to being found in Alaska moose and caribou, M. ovi has infected a mule deer in New Mexico, a bison in Montana and multiple white-tailed deer in the upper Midwest, the study stated.

Fairbanks-based wildlife veterinarian Dr. Kimberlee Beckmen, with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, was a co-author of the study, which is in review for publication in a scientific journal, according a news release from the department.

M. ovi has increasingly been on the radar of Alaska’s wildlife biologists. The bacteria is blamed for contributing to bighorn sheep die-offs in the Lower 48. It had been known to exist in domestic sheep and goats in the 49th state. But it wasn’t confirmed in wild Alaska sheep and goats until March.

Hunting groups, including the national Wild Sheep Foundation, have called for mandatory testing of domestic animals out of concern about the health of wild herds.

Moose and caribou vastly outnumber sheep in Alaska and live in habitat more accessible to hunters. So an infection that could sicken these animals stands to affect far more people.

M. ovi can infect animals without any noticeable effects but can also contribute to their deaths by impairing

Cont. Pg9, Col 1

the ability of their lungs to clear out other harmful bacteria. *M. ovi*'s virulence varies depending on both the strain that infects the animal and the overall health of the animal. In addition to being infected with the bacteria, the Fortymile caribou that died last month was emaciated. The 18 wild sheep and goats previously found with the bacteria in Alaska were all in good health.

Biologists found the *M. ovi* in five of 230 moose tested and six of 243 caribou tested. It was also found in 13 of 136 Dall sheep tested and five of 39 mountain goats.

Alaska's state government is working with the Washington Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and the United States Department of Agriculture Animal Disease Research Unit to continue studying *M. ovi*.

Outdoors Editor Sam Friedman at 459-7545. Follow him on Twitter: @FDNMoutdoors

Herdsmen shear goats in Xigaze, SW China's Tibet

Source: Xinhua|2018-06-23, Editor: ZX

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-06/23/c_137275663_2.htm



Herdsmen shear goats in Tangxi Village, Xigaze, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, June 22, 2018



A woman shears a goat in Tangxi Village, Xigaze, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, June 22, 2018



Goats seen before shearing in Tangxi Village, Xigaze, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, June 22, 2018

I am always looking for folks to describe their goat-travels here in Goat Tracks. I have a lot of my stories on backlog, but you are going to get real tired of just reading about me! Please consider sending me a narrative of your adventures. I can edit like mad, but can't describe your travels!



Goat Tracks Advertising Pricing

		Per Issue	Year
Business Card	2x3-1/2 or 3-1/2x2	10.00	30.00
The 'Square'	3-1/2x3-1/2	15.00	45.00
1/4 page	3-1/2x4-3/4 or 4-3/4x3-1/2	20.00	60.00
1/2 page	3-1/2x9 or 7x4-1/2	35.00	105.00
Full page	7x9	50.00	150.00
Classified, per word, contact info counts as one word		.20	.60

Ches McCartney, The Original Utility Goat Man

by Lauren Hall Ruddell

A column of acrid black smoke spears the horizon. A crowd of people begin to move in the direction of the site. Children, old folks, men in overalls, men in suits and bow ties ride, walk or drive to what is surely going to be horrendous spectacle. A neighbor's house or barn on fire? An automobile in flames? The crowd seems to know what they will discover... after all, it's happened before. The children seem to get especially animated as they approach the source of the smoke. And there, at last, they see it.

"It's the goat man" they scream and run toward the makeshift encampment where a pyre made of tires has been lit. It's a beacon, obnoxious yes, but effective. Ches McCartney, itinerant preacher and goat gypsy is back in town.

The crowd is indeed greeted to a spectacle. In rural America in the 1960's people had televisions, sure, but nothing beats a live show. This show consisted of a ramshackle wagon festooned with pots, pans and all manner of junk enough to make an Irish Romany drool with envy. A long, low hitch that looked like something Huskies might pull over the tundra lay limp and empty on the ground. The primary means of propulsion of this contraption were on top of the wagon, under the wagon, lounging around the disgusting fire, or grazing in the farmer's field where the whole shebang had come to rest for a while. The draft animals, as you, gentle reader may have guessed, were all goats. Big ones, little ones, pregnant ones, and lots of billies. Baby goats bounced with abandon at the approach of the children, knowing



that treats aplenty were in store for them.

A postcard from 1954 shows the whole gang underway. The sign on top of the front wagon says "Prepare to meet thy God".

Born in Iowa in 1901, he grew up knowing farm animals and livestock intimately. An accident nearly claimed his life in 1930, when a tree fell on him during a WPA forestry project. Pinned for hours, he was finally discovered and pronounced dead. When the undertaker's needle pierced his skin, both men learned otherwise. Still, despite a miraculous recovery, Ches' left side was mangled for the rest of his life. Unable to work any longer at the jobs

available during the Depression, and being possessed of a fertile imagination and quirky turn of mind, he decided to make the best of a bad situation. He had always loved goats and travel, so why not combine the two?

Sometimes traveling with a wife and sometimes with his son Gene, and sometimes alone, Ches eventually visited every state in the continental US. Nine strong goats pulled the rig from in front, and several even stronger billies tied to the rear of the main cart would push the wagon up hills and act as brakes on the way down. This arrangement was sometimes complicated by the fact that Ches had a separate wagon attached behind the first one. This was the maternity ward. None of his gang were neutered and so of course, nature took its' course. Any imminently expectant mothers rode in the ward, as well as any tiny newborns too small to manage the 3 miles per day the caprine sortie generally traveled.

Ches never slaughtered a goat in his care. One goat with 3 legs was cared for right along with the able bodied, as was a goat with no front legs that would hop alongside the wagon when he felt like it, the rest of the time reclining in style in the maternity ward. The one with 3 legs rode in a special side box attached to the wagon he made just for her. Whenever they stopped for a rest and Ches sat down, spectators reported that she was out of that box like a shot and into his lap, demanding all of his undivided attention. Perhaps because of his disabled left arm, he felt a certain special kinship with this little dependent.

In this odd and sometimes suspect manner, Ches made 90,000 stops over 27 years throughout the US, often visiting again and again towns that had welcomed him and his goats. Some towns welcomed him, and some did not. In one town, during WWII, a member of the public complained that he was surely a Nazi spy. The local constabulary was not convinced, and Ches went on his slow and smelly way... undetained.

And smelly it was. Many would-be fireside companions, eager to hear tales of his travels, simply could not abide the funk. A hardy few would join him occasionally, and he would regale them with tales of the goat road and the gospel.

Ches kept body and soul together on the charity of many sympathetic townsfolk who appreciated the fact that he was good with their children, always patient and happy to answer their questions. That meant that breakfast and a sack lunch were often part of the day's earnings, along with cash from the sale of postcards.

Ches was something of a showman and although he had a soft spot for kids (of all kinds) he also had a healthy disrespect for fools. He made plenty of traveling cash by charging 25 cents for one postcard of himself and the goats, 50 cents for 2 of them, and 3 cards for a dollar. This bush math worked out well for him far more often than you would suppose.

In the same vein, Ches could be a little salty with uppity folk who looked down on him for his lifestyle. One Georgia journalist reported an interesting exchange. "I remember a nice dressed, well to do lady asking the Goat Man how he could live like this, meaning his deplorable condition. The Goat Man responded by saying "Look around here, 50 or 60 people have come to here to see me. How many came to see you today?" In this same story, the journalist remarks "The only thing I would trade my memories of this nomad for would be to walk up to that same old junk caravan, same Old Goat Man and listen to his stories." The author was anonymous, but history shows that the article appeared in a Gadsen, Alabama newspaper in March of 1965.

Rural America of the '60s was often as not a cruel, as well as kind, place. Lest we forget, the good old days weren't all that rosy for those who didn't fit a very specific mold. Ches often found himself and his goats the victims of random violence during his travels. Such was the case in 1964, on Christmas Eve, when a local thug shot 'Old Billy' with an arrow, just for fun. He was Ches' favorite buck, and reported to be about 20 years old (but probably wasn't).



Ches tempts his friend Old Billy with a special treat.

Many good townspeople turned out on the sad, frosty day to help Ches save Old Billy. They managed a pretty good triage, and for the next 4 months of his life, Old Billy traveled in style in the wagon. The following April he finally succumbed to his internal injuries and old age. Ches published a heart-felt poem in memorium of his fallen comrade.

Eventually, too many acts such as this caused Ches to continue his travels without his beloved goats. He found homes for all of them in zoos and even Disneyworld. His herd was gone by 1968. He continued traveling until he was no longer able to hop a freight. He disappeared for a few years, and then friends and family were able to locate him in Hollywood (seems like the first place they should have looked, considering the man's nature.) He passed away in a nursing home in Macon, Georgia in 1992, at the age of 87.

As one journalist remarked in tribute "May the sun always shine on the Goat Man". Indeed, may the sun always shine on all of us folk who march to the beat of a different drummer, one that taps out the times of our lives to the tempo of goat hooves on the road or trail.



Ches nearing the end of his travels

Proper Goat Hoof Care

Posted on September 23, 2016 by [Katie Ockert](#), Michigan State University Extension
http://msue.anr.msu.edu/news/proper_goat_hoof_care

Taking good care of your goats' hooves is an essential management practice.

Hoof care in any animal species is a vital part of their management. Goats' hooves require regular trimming and inspection to determine if there are any hoof problems that could lead to lameness or infection that can be spread among the herd, such as [contagious foot rot](#).



Depending on the environment goats live in, they may need more or less frequent trimming. For example, goats living in rocky conditions where the hoof will wear against the ground may need less frequent trimming than a goat that lives in a grass pasture. Be familiar with the environment your goats live in and keep accurate records of when you perform hoof care. This will help you determine an appropriate schedule for your herd.

Hooves should not be allowed to over-grow as this keeps the animal walking properly. The goal of the trim should be to make the bottom of the hoof be flat and at the same angles as the hair line at the top of the hoof. All dirt and manure should be removed from the hoof prior to trimming. [Michigan State University Extension](#) recommends using a hoof pick or the tips of the hoof trimmers to do this. The walls, or sides, and heels should be trimmed flat with the sole. To view the proper way to trim your goats' hooves, visit eXtension's [Goat Basic Hoof Care](#).

As always, when trimming your goats' hooves, pay attention to the health of the hoof. Look for any signs of founder, abscesses, [contagious hoof rot](#) or granuloma. Goats that may have hoof infections should be treated accordingly.

This article was published by [Michigan State University Extension](#). For more information, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu>. To have a digest of information delivered straight to your email inbox, visit <http://www.msue.msu.edu/newsletters>. To contact an expert in your area, visit <http://expert.msue.msu.edu>, or call 888-MSUE4MI (888-678-3464).

Goat genome reveals oldest genetic discovery of domestication

By: Connor Ertz on 07.06.2018

<https://www.earth.com/news/goat-genome-domestication/>

Goats were one of the first animals that early humans domesticated, kept close as a source of meat, milk, and hides.



They have been a partner animal since 8,500 BC, with the earliest evidence of domestic goats being found in the Fertile Crescent region of Southwest Asia – the area where crop farming and animal herding first began. Now, a team of international scientists has sequenced the genomes of ancient goat bones found in this region, and their results give great detail into the 10,000-year history of local farmer practices involving genetic exchange between wild and domesticated herds, as well as selection by early farmers.

Prior to herding, local hunters would go after wild goats – known as bezoar – which ultimately led to the start of goat management and livestock keeping. But determining how early farmers practiced domestication is difficult due to thousands of years of migration and mixture.

“Just like humans, modern goat ancestry is a tangled web of different ancestral strands,” explains Dan Bradley, a professor at Trinity College Dublin and lead investigator of the study. “The only way to unravel these and reach reliably into the past is to sequence genomes from actual ancient animals; a kind of molecular time travel.”

The researchers used genetic data from more than 80 ancient wild and domestic goats, charting the initial patterns of domestication, and finding a surprising amount of genetic differentiation between goats throughout the Fertile Crescent and surrounding areas.

“Goat domestication was a mosaic rather than a singular process with continuous recruitment from local wild populations,” says Pierpaolo Maisano Delser, a research fellow at Trinity and joint first author of the paper. “This process generated a distinctive genetic pool which evolved across time and still characterizes the different goat populations of Asia, Europe and Africa today.”

This study was the earliest genetic discovery of the domestication process in human history. The findings show that – like modern breeders – early farmers were interested in animal appearance. “Whole genome sequences from the past allowed us directly analyze some of the earliest goat herds,” says Kevin Daly, a PhD researcher at Trinity and first author of the paper. “We found evidence that at least as far back as 8,000 years ago herders were interested in or valued the coat color of their animals, based on selection signals at pigmentation genes.”

Additionally, they found distinct but parallel patterns of this selection in various early herds, which shows that this was a repeated phenomenon. Other evidence points towards animals being selected for liver enzymes that gave better tolerance to toxins, potentially from fungus growing on food, as well as production traits such as fertility and size.

By Connor Ertz, Earth.com Staff Writer

Proposal to protect wild sheep could negatively impact local, domesticated herds

By Heather Hintze, Monday, November 13th 2017

<http://www.ktva.com/story/36835394/proposal-to-protect-wild-sheep-could-negatively-impact-local-domesticated-herds>

Milking dairy goats is a full-time job Mike Pendergrast never really pictured for himself; his wife got him into it.



“She asked me one morning if I wanted a latte. I turned around and there was a goat named ‘Latte’ and that’s what started it,” he said.

Fifteen years later, the couple owns about 40 goats they use for a “herd sharing” operation to provide raw milk for other families. They said their farm could be in jeopardy because of a proposal before the Board of Game.

Proposal 64 calls to “eliminate sheep and goats from the ‘Clean List’ and require a permit for possession with stipulations if located within 15 air miles of all sheep habitat.”

Animals on the Clean List are the only ones people are legally allowed to own as pets.

“It would make us all into criminals essentially,” Crosby said. “Because according to the Fish and Game website, no animal that is not on the Clean List may be possessed, imported, exported, bought or sold in the state of Alaska,” she said.

While Proposal 64 states, “Online permitting has become mainstream and is simple,” Crosby said that’s not the case. Regulation 5 AAC 92.029 counters if a species is not on the list “The Alaska Department of Fish and Game is forbidden from issuing a permit authorizing anyone to possess it as a pet.”

The Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation authored the proposal. The group’s president, Kevin Kehoe, said it’s aimed at protecting the health of the wild stock of Dall sheep, musk ox and mountain goats.

Alaska has 45,000 Dall sheep, about one-quarter of the population in North America.

“Right now, the conservative estimate on what their annual value is to the state, hunting and tourism is about \$20 to \$40 million a year is the financial value. Their true value is incalculable,” Kehoe said.

Kehoe gave testimony at the Board of Game meeting on Monday. He said the biggest concern facing wild animals is a pathogen called *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae*, known shorthand as “Movi”, which can be transmitted from domestic animals and cause respiratory disease and death.

“We have put forth a solution to go Movi-free in the state of Alaska that if enacted would eliminate this threat and therefore removal of domestics from the clean list would never be warranted,” Kehoe said.

Kehoe’s testimony went contrary to what the language of the proposal is calling for: An elimination of domestic goat and sheep from the Clean List.

Cont. Pg13, Col 1

Pendergrast said if the board adopts the proposal as written it would have a devastating impact on farmers like himself.

"Lose your cat, your dog, lose your bird. They're our family," Pendergrast said.

Both groups agree they want to keep our state free from the deadly pathogen and are trying to work together to come up with a solution.

"We're all Alaskans. We value and cherish our wildlife and no one wants to see any harm come to wild sheep," Crosby said.

She said 27 farms around the state underwent voluntary testing in an effort to get ahead of the problem.

"I've been up here since 1958. I hunt, I fish I'm not opposed to adding an Movi test, I don't want to have an Movi problem," Pendergrast said, noting all his animals tested negative for the pathogen.

It will ultimately be up to the Board of Game to decide how to balance the protection of domestic and wild populations. Deliberations on all 69 proposals goes through Friday.

Sparky The Goat Walked The Tonys Red Carpet & The People, They Loved It

By [Hannah Story](https://www.pedestrian.tv/entertainment/sparky-the-goat-tony-awards/), June 11, 2018, <https://www.pedestrian.tv/entertainment/sparky-the-goat-tony-awards/>

The true MVP of the **Tony Awards** red carpet last night at NYC's **Radio City Music Hall** was this goat in a bow-tie:

Sparky the Goat was accompanied on the red carpet by his **Broadway** producer **Ken Davenport**: yes, this isn't just a twee animal moment, this is a star of the stage having his time in the spotlight on **American** theatre's night of nights.



Sparky featured in musical *Once on this Island*, which actually took out the award for Best Revival of a Musical on the night. The story, first staged in 1990, follows **Ti Moune (Hailey Kilgore)** a peasant girl in the **French Antilles** trying to reunite with an upper class boy she fancies, **Daniel Beauxhomme (Isaac Powell)**. It's a *Romeo and Juliet*-style story, but with more singing and a **Caribbean** score, negotiating issues of class and race. And also it has this goat in it, remember:

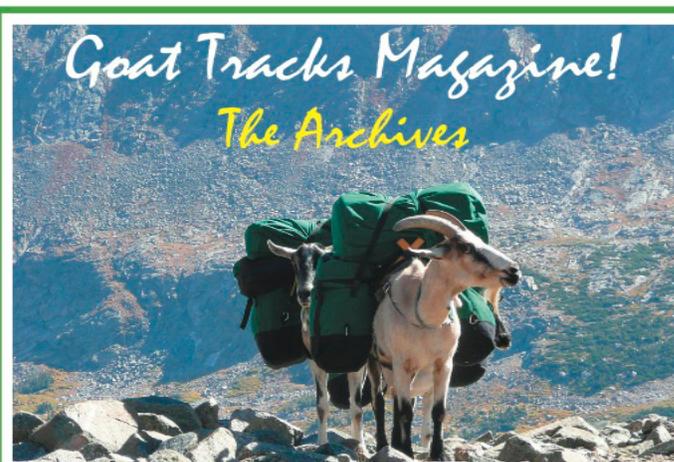


An online community for the working goat enthusiast!

- Ask questions and get answers
- Health info
- Training tools
- Photos, stories, and news
- Chatroom
- Monthly prize drawings
- Get to know other goat packers!



<http://www.packgoatcentral.com/forums/>



2 CD Set, or DVD \$60

A virtual encyclopedia of goat information from the very beginning of Goat Tracks Magazine.

You'll love all the training tips, stories health information and more!

From those who were in it from the very beginning!

To order use the same info as to order a subscription

In my frequent forays into the files that make up the GT Archives, I have come to the conclusion that the only reason that everyone doesn't have a copy of this information is that they just don't realize how completely entertaining lots of this stuff is. There have been some great writers for GT over the years!

A Beautiful Story... a Valuable Lesson

TinCup to the Rescue!



It's easy to think, as we observe our goats bashing each other at the feeders, bumping one another out of the way, and smacking their heads bloody, that they are generally selfish and hostile creatures who lack compassion for other members of their own species. It's also easy to underestimate their intelligence. Last May,

our goat TinCup reminded us that goats are not only quite intelligent, but they are capable of a great deal of compassion despite their rough-and-tumble displays.

I was down at the saddle club when Phil decided to go for a hike. He was getting into the truck when our goat TinCup came running up the hill toward the house, hollering at top volume. TinCup had given birth the day before, and since it is not uncommon for our new mamas to hide their babies somewhere (often in one of the goat shelters) and then forget where they put them, Phil didn't think much of it and continued to climb into the truck.

But TinCup parked herself outside the driver door and kept bellowing.

Phil rolled down the window.

"TinCup! Go find your babies!" he said.

TinCup just looked at him and hollered.

Phil started the engine, but TinCup persisted, gazing intently at Phil through the driver window as she yelled. She was clearly in distress and was determined to make Phil pay attention to her. Phil stopped the truck and looked out at TinCup. Animals aren't dumb, and TinCup obviously had something important to tell him. He got out and looked at the other goats who were all gathered near the horse trough at the bottom of the hill. He heard a baby crying. This was unusual. Mama goats usually run toward the sound of a crying kid, but TinCup had run toward Phil. Now that she had Phil's attention, TinCup ran down the driveway toward the herd, stopping periodically to check over her shoulder to make sure Phil was still following her.

When Phil got to the bottom of the hill, he could hear a distressed cry coming from the horse trough. A baby was in trouble! But it wasn't one of TinCup's kids. No, her kids were safely tucked away in their shed. The cry was coming from Sadie, a ten-day-old kid belonging to

TinCup's friend, Nauti. Sadie had jumped into the horse trough which I had filled the night before. It was too deep for her to stand and she couldn't get out. She had jumped up, thinking it was a platform, and had plunged into deep water instead. Sadie's mother was standing beside the trough, frantic but helpless.

No sooner had Phil fished the soggy baby out than her brother jumped into the trough to see what he'd been missing. Phil fished the second kid out, then immediately dumped the horse trough over to prevent any further accidents. We're so thankful that TinCup had the wits to seek help from the only creature who could do anything about the drowning baby.

We're also thankful that she cared about another doe's offspring. Finally, we're thankful that someone was home or we'd have come back to a tragedy.

I feel like the guilty party here. I know the danger of horse troughs and have warned other goat breeders about them. Normally during kidding season, the horses have a pond to drink from so I stow the trough away. But this year the pond dried up in a drought so I went into auto-pilot and continued to fill the trough without thinking about the fact that we had new kids on the ground. Phil and I went to the feed store the very next day and picked out a trough low enough for kids to see over the top. I even plunked a cinder block into the bottom so that if one did happen to jump in, they'd have an easy time climbing back out.

This could have been a tragic event with a hard lesson, but thanks to TinCup, the lesson was learned without the accompanying disaster.

Three cheers for TinCup!

Reminds me of my story a while back, based on personal experiences, titled "Your Goats are Talking to You... Are You Listening??"



Cart Goat from a earlier time

NORTHWEST PACK GOATS



*Reach for
Higher ground*

Selling quality equipment & supplies around the world.



All Saddles come with a **LIFETIME** Guarantee

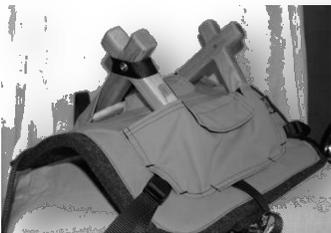


- **Finished Saddles ready to go**
- **Oak kits – you finish**
- **Pine kits – save weight and money**



- **All complete with your choice of regular straps or mountain straps**

- **Basic Panniers – great for hunting**
- **Zippered Panniers**
- **Deluxe Panniers – for large bulky items**
- **Pack sacks – for organizing your gear**



➤ **Exclusive – Patented – Pocket Pad**

Impossible for the pad to slip out from under your saddle

Largest Selection of Pack Goat Gear Available

Waterproof Coats, Rope Halters, Books, First Aid Kits and more...

Order On-line : Secure & Fast

www.NorthwestPackgoats.com

1-888-PACKGOAT sales@northwestpackgoats.com

An Exercise in 'What Happened?'



The trail in... rich with promise

Which is, of course, just a squirrely introduction to my latest venture into the Idaho outback.

As an aside, why is it that all of my excursions into the woods end up being worthy of relating as 'the latest disaster', when some other folks stuff would be so boring as to cause an immediate descent into a hypnotic trance?

Well, no answer to that one, but as local disasters go, my latest venture certainly qualifies as one for the relating, so...

Since it was too early to attempt a venture into the really high country here in Idaho (over 8000'), I postulated that maybe it would be a good time to visit my favorite hot spring, which lives in the upper section of Bear Valley, Idaho. Which, incidentally, is the home of at least one wolf pack... but never mind that.

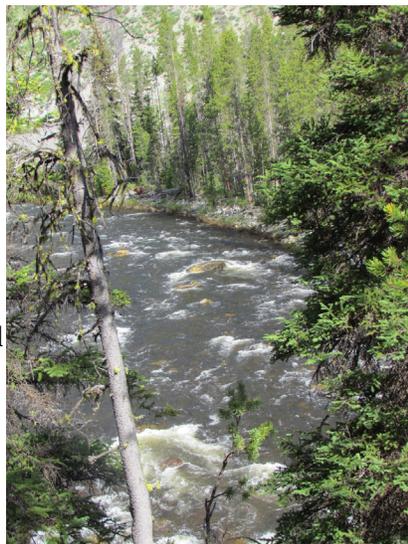
So why not hit the ground running after church on Sunday, and maybe we can make the TH in time to actually hike in.

Ooops, we seem to have forgotten that we have a meeting of 'goat folks' Monday evening. So I guess we'll rework that plan to a Tuesday morning beginning.

Even that didn't work out so well, as we arrived at the TH, Fir Creek CG, about 3pm. So probably a little late to hit the trail at that point. Probably better camp overnight, and blast out tomorrow morning.

Wednesday AM off we go. A little rugged through the high altitude section of this trail, but we made good progress, and soon arrived at the point where the 'official trail' begins.

(It is necessary to digress at this point to note that at the TH, the documented 'official trail' crosses the 'creek'



The 'creek' in question...

on a bridge about ¼ mile west of the CG, from there traverses down the north side of the creek, and therefore after about a mile and a half, necessitates a foot crossing of the 'creek' over to the point I was just talking about.

What isn't immediately obvious here, is that this 'creek' is a RIVER, not a creek, and at this point in the year is running at flood, which means that at least two feet of very fast water is in your way should you choose to attempt to cross it here. In other words, this is the 'creek crossing of fools'.)

So, back to the original action in progress, my hike to the hot spring.

One thing, peculiar to this adventure, is that I had brought along my trusty little saw with the intention of clearing the smaller of the trees that had fallen since my last visit. This entailed far more work than I would have originally desired as there is a very large amount of trees dying due to bugs, etc., and as a result, I arrived at the hot spring far into the afternoon. Which wasn't a large issue, as it was a little too warm for effective hot-springing at that point, so time to set up camp, collect firewood, and contemplate my navel.

After dinner, around 5:30, I returned to navel-contemplating, waiting for the temp to go down far enough to make the hot spring attractive. 6-6:30 I observed a curious phenomena, i.e., that the mosquitoes were gathering for a massive invasion. And, yes, I know, there are always mosquitoes, but in my many dozens of years in the woods, I have only seen a horde such as this one other time. It resembled one of the biblical plagues! I went running for my hat with the mesh tent on it, which I only wear on isolated occasions, and ended up sitting there in my hat-tent, ruminating as to the picture of a older-than-dirt senior citizen sitting in the hot spring, sin ropa, with a hat-tent on. The picture is enough to give one hives.

Result?

The hot spring never appeared on that evening's radar, and the tent was entered far earlier than normal, primarily as an escape mechanism... with the thought running through my consciousness, "Hey! This is **NOT** why I come to this spring!"

But wait! It gets better.

Back around late afternoon, it had given every appearance that the sky might be contemplating beginning to drip on my campsite. It never actually materialized, even after an hour or more of energetic threats, and I assumed, "Hey, dodged that bullet. No tarp needed today!

Fast-forward to sometime during the 'light-deficient' period, I woke up and noticed that the darkness was

almost complete, i.e., I almost could not see the inside of the tent!

That my friends, in the backpacking, sleeping-in-the-tent world, is *NOT* a good sign. Even without a moon it is never *that* dark. Looking outside the tent confirmed my suspicions, the sky was 100% clouded over, and that is another verifiable threat of a potentially 'dripping' sky. Guess I shoulda put up the tarp, eh? Now I gotta do it in severely limited visibility. And since I had forgotten my attaches-to-the-head flashlight, I am going to have to do this holding my only flashlight in the mouth. At that point I could think of a whole lot of things that I would rather be doing in the wee hours that holding a flashlight in my mouth and attempting to put up an unruly tarp. There *were* a couple of blessings, however: 1) There was no wind, which would have multiplied the tarp erecting difficulty exponentially; and 2) It wasn't, at least at that point, raining. Had it of been raining, you would have been fighting the goats every step of the way, because: 1) They know what a tarp is for; and 2) they want under it IMMEDIATELY [I'm remembering a time in the Eagle Cap Wilderness, where I had to stop in the middle of the trail and erect the tarp, as it had begun raining gatos y perros on us all. I only had one line up down the middle of the tarp, the tarp is hanging straight down on either side of the line, and all the goats were pushing and shoving in an attempt to get under it somehow!]

However, the tarp went up with precious little difficulty, and I was able to get back into the sleeping bag and attempt to put a stop to the mad shivering I was experiencing (FYI: It never rained).

Morning dawned early, and relatively cloudless. So did a long soak, took in breakfast, such as they are on the trail, did another soak, and proceeded to make preparations to vault out of this mosquito infested jurisdiction. I had previously determined that I had no desire to experience one more night being set upon by the numbers of the local denizens determined to drain my blood supply to EMPTY.

Turned out to be a beautiful hike out, sunny, blue sky and still quite cool, ideal for hiking. At least it was beautiful up to the previously mentioned point where the 'official trail' angles across the river, and where it is necessary to bushwhack across the side of the mountain in lieu of swimming.

Interestingly, during the hike out, towering cumulus were beginning to make their presence known, first one, then two, then 10... pretty soon the sky was being covered and the message was clear, it are gonna drip soon, maybe with considerable force.

Arrived at the CG where the truck was parked just as the first drops began to fall. Got the goats in the truck,

and we drove over to one of the camping spots to wait out the rain. The 'drops' were about a gallon each, and were soon joined in the fun by 1/4 to 1/2 inch hail.

That little blast lasted about an hour or hour and a half, the clouds went away, the sun returned, and I made the decision to remain here overnight, with a return in the morning to the high mountain bushwhack and attempt to do a little trail maintenance.

This time I put the tarp up first! Put the tent under it, napped a little, and waited for dinnertime. About dinnertime, or a little after, the clouds began massing again, and that turned into a bloody maelstrom.

It rained, it hailed, it lightninged, and it blew. Sat in the truck until about 8:30, then retreated to the tent.

Morning brought a clear indication of more of the same, and so discretion being the better part of valor, I made the executive decision to leave the trail maintenance to another time, and therefore vault out of this swampy locale.

All hiking is good, and I always enjoy being out in the woods, this time as well. I must, because as soon as I am home, the first thing I begin to do is pine for the woods again.

Let the planning begin.



Bear Valley Hot Spring... minus the mosquitoes



Stephen Barnhill ▸ North American Pack Goats Association/NAPGA

36 mins · 🌐

Matt Lyon negotiating the cliffs with his goats. Teton dam





[Cargo panniers]



Saddles



Small Panniers



Large Panniers



**Halters, Visibility gear,
Goat Coats / Pack
Covers, and much much
more. Visit our website
for the full line of
products available.**

Butt-Head Pack Goats
PO Box 333
Rough & Ready CA 95975
(530) 432-0946
bhpackgoats@hotmail.com

Butt-Head Pack Goat Products

Family owned and operated Butt-Head Pack Goats has been in business since 1988. All of our equipment is hand made by Dennis Willingham in the small town of Rough & Ready, California. We value our customers and take pride in our work. All of our products have been tested on the trail.

We appreciate your business and guarantee your satisfaction.



Buttheadpackgoats.com

The following is a 'blast from the past', an article by Ellen Herman, one of Goat Tracks original writers. Here, she recounts a 1995 trip with John Mionczynski into Wyoming's Red Desert, a trip that I was fortunate enough to be able to do with Charlie Jennings and John, back in 2012.

Goat-Packing in the Red Desert

by Ellen Herman, o/a 1995

We gathered at John Mionczynski's cabin that morning... eight of us, who as it turned out, had a lot in common. One of those things was our interest in goat-packing. John is considered the originator of goat-packing and definitely the foremost expert on the subject. He and his partner Gary Keene would lead us on a four-day hike into the Red Desert. It was to be a hands-on demonstration of the capabilities of goats as pack animals.

We spent most of the morning making introductions and sorting and loading our gear into the panniers. Then we climbed into John's Suburban and drove out onto his range



John 'M's Cabin... hand built by John

allotment to find the pack string. It didn't take long to locate them and they eagerly followed us back to the cabin. There, all 17 of them were loaded into the trailer and off to the Red Desert we went -- a 25 mile trip that took 1-1/2 hours due to roads that looked and felt as if they were part of the original Oregon Trail!

We each selected one goat to carry our personal gear (roughly 30-40 lbs.). The extra goats hauled water and food for the group. Since this was the first goat-packing experience for several of us, John spent lots of time showing how to saddle them correctly and balance the loads.

Also on his first trip was Geyser, a timid, nervous Alpine-Saanen yearling. That afternoon we hiked in about three miles to our campsite. Poor Geyser continually lagged behind. He'd already had enough of this! As far as he was concerned, it was no longer fun and way past time to go home. His complaints fell on deaf ears as we continued on. Once, he fell so far behind that Gary had to go back and retrieve him for fear that he might take up with a pronghorn buck we had seen, or any other creature that was heading in the direction Geyser wanted to go... *home!*

The Red Desert lies at 6,600 ft. elevation in the Great Divide Basin of southwest Wyoming. The area is extremely remote. The only sign of civilization I recall was an occasional satellite passing through the star-laden night sky. In the thin dry air everything takes on a

special intensity -- the sunlight, the sky, the clouds and the stars. The subtle red, green, mauve and grey bands of the sandstone and claystone hills become vivid.

Often we were alerted to the presence of wildlife by the goats. Standing alertly, they would stare in the direction of whatever had captured their attention. We saw pronghorn antelope, nesting prairie falcons, mountain bluebirds, desert elk, coyotes and wild horses. The horses were viewed from such a distance that they looked to some of us like nothing more than dark wavering dots in the desert heat. We were repeatedly assured by those with sharper eyesight that they were indeed wild horses.

Many of the desert wildflowers were in bloom while we were there in early June. The fragrant evening primrose and delicate desert mallow were my favorites. Much of the area was littered with fragments of fossilized turtle shells -- remnants of the Eocene period. At that time the entire basin was a huge lake.

Because this was one of their first trips of the year, the pack string wasn't in the prime physical condition they would be in later in the season. Most of them were also dealing with remnants of their woolly winter coats in the desert heat. For those reasons, we stopped frequently for them (and us) to rest. I've been raising dairy goats for many years and I'm well aware of the incredible agility and sure-footedness of these amazing animals. I found myself marveling at their endurance and ability to maintain that agility while carrying a load. Indeed, is there any other pack animal that can measure up to their capabilities? An added advantage goats have in desert conditions is their ability to conserve water. When they shift into their desert mode, they stop urinating and can go without water for up to three days.

The sandstone hills were often steep and unstable, but the view from the top always made the ascent worthwhile. The undulating peaks were connected by the narrowest of ridges, at times no



The Red Desert... + 1 Goat!

wider than a person's foot. It was like walking along the backbone of a gigantic, slumbering, prehistoric creature, perhaps some undiscovered hold-over from pre-Eocene times. We humans all accepted and enjoyed the challenge. The goats ran and jumped and zigged and zagged. They laughed and thought it was great fun and said "What challenge?"

Nine-year old Alpi, caprine athlete and pack goat

extraordinaire, was selected to carry 70 lbs. of water into our campsite the first afternoon. As I watched him ascend and descend the sandy canyon walls and traverse those narrow ridges right along with all the others, I had to remind myself that it was a 70 lb. load, not a picnic basket full of marshmallows he was carrying! As time for this trip drew near, concerns about my own capabilities surfaced. My friend Clayton Cheney had suggested the Red Desert trip because the terrain was challenging and he wanted us to see the goats put to the test. That meant that we'd also be put to the test. Not being much of a hiker or climber or hot weather enthusiast, I began to envision having to be packed out on a stretcher by the second day! To my surprise and relief, I found that in the dry high desert air the heat was not a problem. My energy level soared, my childhood training came back to me and my allergies disappeared. I was always the first one to get up in the morning, but not always by choice. Once, I was awakened by a mini-avalanche [of pebbles] raining down on my sleeping bag. I looked up to see a merry band of Oberhasli's cavorting in the morning sun on the rocks directly above me. My 'desert at dawn' walks out into the sagebrush with 17 belled caprine companions were pure bliss to this goatherd.

During the hottest part of the day, we would retreat to one of the many caves in the area to rest or eat lunch and participate in a lively exchange of ideas on caprine-related topics. All the while, the subjects of our discussions entertained us by balancing on nearly non-existent ledges and jockeying for the coolest; most comfortable spots in the cave. I think they were having a good time discussing us.

As time passed, it was becoming apparent that Geyser, although still unsure of himself and questioning the wisdom of this whole thing, was growing accustomed to being around people. In fact, I could say he was actually bonding with us -- an essential characteristic of a good pack goat.

On the last day of the trip we stopped to rest in a large cave. Unknown to us, some of the goats' panniers had become wedged in a narrow passage between the rocks. They were unable to follow us out. It was Geyser who alerted John and some of the others to their dilemma, and the trapped goats were rescued. Geyser had passed another important test... if you get into trouble don't panic, but let someone know about it!

A place of great peace, tranquility and serene beauty, it seems the Red Desert would be an ideal spot to think and possibly find solutions to some of life's problems. I'm sure it is, but to the contrary I found that while I

was there, the only things I could think about were the 10 of us, the goats, the desert and how it made me feel. I gave little thought to home, world events or anything else outside the realm of the here and now. It was a time for savoring the moment and restoring the spirit -- exactly what I needed.

As we finished our lunch on that last afternoon in the desert, I glanced upward to see Geyser positioned on the highest point. He was standing there with his load of empty water jugs rattling in the wind -- eyes mere slits in the intense sunlight, and a look of pride and satisfaction on his face. He had discovered his life's work; he had become a pack goat. It made me wonder about what his human companions had gleaned from this adventure -- different things for each of us I'm sure, and perhaps nothing quite so profound as Geyser's self-discovery. But besides all that we had learned from John and Gary about goat-packing and the natural history of the area, we had all gotten to know each other and ourselves a little better too on that trip, much like a little white goat named Geyser who had come of age in the Red Desert.



Debbie Luzier

40 mins · 🌐

I like this pic 😊

4/19/2018



Debbie Luzier's Husband... surrounded by friends!

LEARNING WITH

Albanian	dhi
Basque	ahuntz
Belarusian	kaza
Bosnian	koza
Bulgarian	koza
Catalan	cabra
Croatian	Jarac
Czech	koza
Danish	ged
Dutch	geit
Estonian	kiits
Finnish	vuohi
French	chèvre
Galician	cabra
German	Ziege
Greek	γίδα(gída)
Hungarian	kecske
Icelandic	Geitur
Irish	gabhar
Italian	capra
Latvian	kaza
Lithuanian	olka
Macedonian	koza
Maltese	moghnoz
Norwegian	geit
Polish	Koza
Portuguese	bode
Romanian	capră
Russian	козa(kozel)
Serbian	koza(koza)
Slovak	koza
Slovenian	koza
Spanish	cabra
Swedish	get
Swiss (Appenzell)	geisse
Swiss (Saanen)	giba
Ukrainian	koza(koza)
Welsh	gafr
Yiddish	(tzeeg) ציג

Larry the Wonder Goat

Asian Languages		
Armenian	պոկ	kepi
Azerbaijani	کاپی	kepi
Bengali	শ্যাম	shyam
Chinese Simplified	山羊 (shānyáng)	shanyang
Chinese Traditional	山羊 (shānyáng)	shanyang
Georgian	ობო	obo
Gujarati	બકરી	bakari
Hindi	बकरी	bakari
Hmong	txhis	txhis
Japanese	ヤギ	yagi
Kannada	ಬಕರಿ	bakari
Kazakh	ешкі	eshki
Khmer	កែវ	keav
Korean	염소(yeomsu)	yeomsu
Lao	ເບ້	be
Malayalam	ആട്	ad
Marathi	शेळी	sheli
Mongolian	Ямааги	yamaagi
Myanmar (Burmese)	ခိတ်	chit
Nepali	बक्री	bakri
Sinhala	එළු	el
Tajik	бӯя	boya
Tamil	கேள்	kel
Telugu	పేద	ped
Thai	แพะ	pa
Urdu	بکری	bakri
Uzbek	echki	echki
Vietnamese	con dê	con de
Middle-Eastern Language		
Arabic	مَاعِز (ma'iz)	ma'iz
Hebrew	תּוֹ	to
Persian	بَر	bar
Turkish	kepi	kepi

African Languages		
Afrikaans	bok	bok
Chichewa	mbuzi	mbuzi
Hausa	goat	goat
Igbo	ewu	ewu
Sesotho	poli	poli
Somali	orgiga	orgiga
Swahili	mbuzi	mbuzi
Yoruba	ewúfẹ	ewufere
Zulu	imbuzi	imbuzi
Austronesian Languages		
Cebuano	kanding	kanding
Filipino	kambing	kambing
Indonesian	kambing	kambing
Javanese	wedhus	wedhus
Malagasy	osilahy	osilahy
Malay	kambing	kambing
Maori	koati	koati
Other Foreign Language		
Esperanto	kapro	kapro
Haitian Creole	kabrit	kabrit
Latin	capra	capra

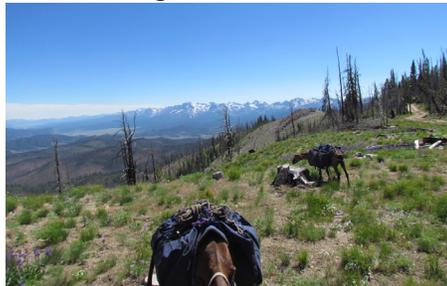


How to say "Goat" in 100 Languages

Road Hiking, one of my Favorite Things! :-)

Uh huh, that and other fairy tales

Although a bit early on the timetable in Idaho for reeally high mountain hiking, anxiety about getting enough hiking accomplished during the precious little time every year that the high country is open had us sniffing around for hikes that might actually work out to be doable right now.



Getting ready to go, Sawtooth Wild in Back

So, in an attempt to reconnoiter an area that had previously only received a cursory exploration, we headed for a place in Idaho that is basically about

15 miles directly north of Stanly, Idaho, and at the bottom of a whole coterie of lakes that just gets prettier the further you explore. Crimson Lake that I hiked to in 2017, and described on my website, had some of the most beautiful surrounds that I have observed in my Idaho hiking (<http://www.boiselarry.com/recents/2017/crimsonlk/crimsonlk.html>). And it is just north of where we were hiking on this trip.

A quick digression here: as we motored on, we discovered that this area had burned sometime between 2011 and the present, and aside from the obvious, that means hiking in the sun nearly 100% of the time. It also directly impacts the efforts of this individual whose primary purpose in hiking is to take pictures.

In any case, we embarked on Tuesday, July 10th, and arrived at Basin Butte Lookout (8955') at around 1 pm. Off we go down the



George's personal waterhole

road, intending to make our first camp at Valley Creek lakes. This area was down a ways from the road at the head of a drainage, but our exploration on Google Earth led us to believe that this would be an easy access from the road.

At this point I must digress again, and note that G-Earth is *NOT* the best way to determine where you are going. They are almost certainly limiting the color in order to decrease the bandwidth needed to display their information, and therefore limiting the degree to which you can interpret what you are seeing. So frequently things appear much more benign than they actually are.

So, late in PM, we arrived at the point where we needed to depart the road, climb a small ridge and head down

to the lake, which will be this night's resting place. The hiker's trail we were following was nebulous at best, and became steeper and more challenging the further we went, which also brought into question the wisdom of hiking to this particular destination. It is pertinent to note that this hiker is a lot closer to 80, than 70, and my lady hiking partner is 83. So some things are undoubtedly a 'challenge' to us that might be a non-event to someone considerably younger.

We finally arrived at the edge of the larger of the Valley Creek Lakes, and a perilously small camping area that made it a real challenge to find places to put two tents.

Morning arrived earlier than desired, because sometime not long after first light, Bogdan, my LaMancha boy, somehow got his right hind leg caught tightly in the highline (yes, the highline, how?), and he was on his back squalling at the threshold of pain.

Both of us came flying out of our respective 'spaces', and it quickly became obvious that the only way to rectify this intractable situation was to immobilize him, then loosen the highline in order to relieve the pressure on this knot around his leg. Once I got him pretty much immobilized, he seemed to calm down and stop struggling, and I was able to get his leg free. Once he was able to get up on his feet, he limped around a bit (there was no real indication of any damage other than



*Larger of the Valley Creek Lakes
Aren't all the burned trees pretty... uh huh!*

to his feelings), then went and lay down between some trees and pouted, ruminating as to why these humans would do such a hurtful thing to such a wonderful goat-boy. Eventually he got up on his feet, and began acting more like a goat... *eating*.

We breakfasted, and left our campspace on a trip around this lake to the outlet, so I could look down on the smaller of these two lakes in order to take a picture... or two (which didn't turn out too well as the lake was situated between hundreds of burned stubs... ugly!).

At some point it was necessary to begin our climb up and out of this bowl, which turned out to be about a 500' struggle. It was extremely steep, and to observe my 83yo partner trudge up the side of this drainage gives one pause as to how one so experienced in 'years', could still be able to accomplish such feats.

Once at the top, we still had just under 4 miles to go to Hindman Lake, our designated location for this night's camp.



Hindman Lake

After a difficult hike, in part due to the altitude we had to cover as well as having to hike almost exclusively in the sun as I mentioned previously, we

arrived at Hindman Lake. Our arrival there revealed that there were already campers located there. Since I was only aware of one camp spot on this lake, and the fact that we were 'used up' from an energy standpoint, that was not exactly a joy to discover. However a brief jaunt a short ways around the lake, revealed another location that had been cleared for camping, so we proceeded to build our 'spaces'.

Next morning we headed on down the road, as the plan was to explore 3 lakes up on the side of a nearby basin. We arrived at the point where I had previously decided that we needed to leave the road and bushwhack up the drainage after about a mile of hiking. We spent quite a bit of time wandering up this drainage, then stumbled on to a trail. Suspecting that it went up to one, or all, of these lakes, we followed it and begorra! It did.

The trail only went to the first of the three lakes, so we bushwhacked over to lake #2, then down to lake #3, where we paused to attack our lunch stuff.

From lake #3, it was a planned bushwhack back to the trail, then on to the road in order to return to our campspace.

Sadly, the designated navigator misread the GPS, and after a lot of difficult off-trail wandering, we found ourselves back at lake #1. That, my friends, is what one calls a 'disappointment'!

So, backtracking down this trail, we go to a point where I felt we needed to leave this easy hiking in order to find our way back to the point where we had originally left the road.

That worked out well, we came back to the road very near where we had left it previously, and so hiked back to camp.

Since it had always been the plan to depart this camp late in the afternoon (to minimize the impact of the sun on our hiking), and hike back to a point more or less halfway back to the magic carpet (the truck), about 4:30 we loaded up and headed out. Around 2 hours later we arrived at what was a fairly comfortable spot and spent the night.

Next morning, up fairly early, and proceeded to 'breakfast'. As an aside, it is always, for me, an

exceptional delight to sit in my Helinox chair, sip my hot coffee, and observe the morning 'getting under way', the mountains to the east changing color from muckledy-dun to copper as the sun struggles to rise above them. Having worked like mad to get there only accentuates the experience.

Hiking out involved about a 100' climb to the top of the pass, an descent down to around 8150', then a climb back up to 8950+. It was a particular grunt, but made more palatable by the fact that it was most all done in the morning's cool, not the grueling heat of the day.



It wasn't all burned :-)

As a postscript, I have to note that 'road hiking' is the worst kind of hiking possible. On this particular trip, having to hike on the road was exacerbated by the fact that this area had almost completely burned, leaving few places if any where you could enjoy hiking in the shade. I have absolutely no plan to ever return to this location. Too many other places to explore, hopefully not burned in one of the all-to-common fires that seem to be a normal accompaniment to summer here in Idaho.



Sandra Pratt Amos ▸ Hiking with Pack Goats

32 mins · 🌐

We had to send Latte, our old hiking buddy to the Rainbow Bridge today. 16 years old. He will be so missed. So many memories. But you in this group know all about this. Thank you for your kind thoughts regarding Gracie a few weeks ago.



New study says nutrition, mother health more important to growing large bighorn sheep than genetics

Christine Peterson 307-797-0731, Christine.Peterson@trib.com, Feb 24, 2018

http://trib.com/lifestyles/recreation/new-study-says-nutrition-mother-health-more-important-to-growing/article_79a8d91d-5dd1-57cc-a4b6-8dae564ad53f.html

Next time you admire a bighorn sheep ram with full curls winding around the sides of his face – thank the big guy’s mom. It’s her nutrition that planted the necessary roots to help him grow that large, according to a recent paper by Kevin Monteith, an assistant professor at the University of Wyoming’s Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources and five other researchers.

Genetics played a role in his size, sure, but not as much as the food he ate and the health of his loving mother.

“The nutritional status of a mother and her ability to provide that offspring through gestation and weaning sets the trajectory of a male not just through the first year of its life, but potentially life lasting,” Monteith said. “Even if the male gets healthier at 2 or 3, it won’t become the male that was offered the silver spoon early in life.”

The paper, called “Horn Size and Nutrition in Mountain Sheep: Can Ewe Handle the Truth?” was published in January in *The Journal of Wildlife Management*. It challenges the common perception that large horns – and also big antlers in other large game – are purely a product of genetics, and as a result can be eliminated from the gene pool because of hunting. It also raises the at-times controversial opinion that the best way to improve the health of females, and the health and size of the males, could be to hunt female bighorn sheep.

“Part of the thrust of the paper was to strive to communicate some realities,” Monteith said. “We usually think we need a lot of females because they reproduce and that’s how our populations grow. That is true, but they do much more than that.”

The issue with genetics

Monteith calls it our “hornographic culture.” It’s a term he coined, a play on words representing society’s love affair with big horns and antlers. It’s also often the driving force behind how hunters and wildlife viewers would like herds to be managed.

“Our culture and society has become fixated on large and elaborate hornlike structures,” Monteith said. “We care about them, but at the same time they are biologically important. They are used as tools in male-male combat, and they are used to indicate how robust an animal is.”

In a quest to produce larger horns, or at least maintain current sizes, people began looking at a bighorn sheep study from Alberta for answers. The work followed a small, isolated population where an unlimited number of

ram tags were given out for any sheep that had horns that curled more than four-fifths of the way around.

The result was that most rams that reached that size were killed, which meant that smaller, slower-growing rams had more opportunity to reproduce and lived longer.

“In that population, they observed a 20 percent decline in horn size over time,” Monteith said.

The study essentially showed that hunting large rams out of a population over a period of years affected the presence of genes that made trophy-sized animals. The data was then used across North America to argue that removing big bucks, bulls or rams eventually creates smaller animals.

But it was more nuanced than that, Monteith said, particularly because bighorn sheep tags in places like Wyoming are very limited.

A series of studies he and his co-authors either conducted or reviewed from other researchers show that nutrition and mother health play a much greater role in how big a ram grows. Indeed, the best genetics in the country still won’t create a large ram if he or his mother doesn’t eat enough healthy food.

It makes sense, said Doug McWhirter, wildlife supervisor for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department in Jackson.

“Where you have limited quota hunting like our sheep harvest is done here, there’s no changes in horn size through time and no evidence of this deleterious impact of harvesting older age class rams,” he said.

Focus on the females

The main goals of a female bighorn sheep are to survive and reproduce – in that order. That means if they’re unhealthy or underweight, they won’t conceive.

If they do, the lamb is born smaller than its peers with healthier moms. And equally important, the lamb requires milk from its mother to survive for the first half a year. If the ewe is undernourished, her body won’t produce enough milk and the lamb will either die or stay little.

And they won’t likely ever grow as large as they may have otherwise.

Monteith used an un hunted population of bighorn sheep in the Sierra Nevada range as an example of this. The population had sheep in six different areas with similar genetics but different nutrition. Without fail, herds with the fattest females produced the largest males. Herds with the skinniest females made the smallest males.

“We’re a male dominated philosophical society and we keep overlooking the importance of females,” said Steve Kilpatrick, executive director of the Wyoming Wild Sheep Foundation.

Here's what the science says about animal sentience

November 24, 2017 by Dr Jan Hoole, The Conversation
<https://phys.org/news/2017-11-science-animal-sentience.html>

There seems to be significant confusion about what happened in the British parliament when MPs discussed a proposed amendment to the [EU \(Withdrawal\) Bill](#) to formally recognise animal sentience. But where science is concerned, animal sentience is in no doubt.

The [definition of sentient](#) is simply "able to perceive or feel things". Today most of us would probably also say that animals are able to feel emotion, form attachments and have distinct personalities. Yet for many decades the idea of animals feeling emotions or having personalities was dismissed by behavioural scientists. This strange view that arose from the 17th century philosopher René Descartes' alleged assertion that [animals are without feelings](#), physical or emotional.

Recent work has debunked this idea (whether or not Descartes actually said it). If any mammal appears to be free of emotions, apart perhaps from cynicism, it would be the goat. Yet scientists have been able to show that goats become emotionally aroused in response to various test situations, and whether these emotions are positive or negative.

The [researchers analysed](#) the calls the goats made when they were expecting food, when they were frustrated because a food reward didn't arrive and when they were isolated from their herd mates. They also used the goats' body language and heart rate to calibrate their assessment of the emotions expressed in the calls, as analysed using the frequency of the sounds.

Horses are a bundle of emotions. This is not surprising, given that they are very social animals, with a close relationship with others in their herds and are also [prey animals](#) whose response to threat is to run away as fast as possible. In Canada, [horse riding](#) is reckoned to be one of the most dangerous sports, ahead of motor racing and skiing, and the emotional state of the horse is an important aspect of the safety or otherwise of the rider.

[Researchers in France](#) looked at the level of emotion and the ability to learn shown by 184 [horses](#) from 22 different riding schools. The ability of a horse to be fairly calm in the face of a novel situation, and to learn quickly that a new object or situation is not threatening, is crucial when riding. So the researchers concentrated on these aspects of horse emotion.

They found that one of the most important influences on how emotional horses are is the way that they are housed. Horses that were kept outside in a field were likely to be less fearful of a new object and to respond with less excitement to being loose in an arena than horses that were housed individually in boxes. While the

result is not surprising, the study emphasises the fact that horses are capable of emotions such as anxiety and fear.

Another vexed question, in the early part of the 20th century at least, was whether or not animals have personalities. It is now generally accepted that they do, and that those personalities are capable of as much variation as human personalities.

Perhaps the most surprising aspect of this area of study is that personality is discernible [even in fish](#), which are often seen as being singularly lacking in [emotional](#) range. Scientists have found that the [personality type](#) of a fish may affect its likelihood of having certain parasites, or its ability to move past a [barrier in a stream](#) when on migration.

Why it matters

The reason that all these studies and the many others into animal emotions, [personality](#) and ability to feel pain, fear and stress, are important is the huge implications for [animal welfare](#). Whether or not the law recognises animals as being sentient, those animals will still feel afraid, fail to cope or suffer pain during [transport](#) and slaughter, as well as in [everyday situations](#).

It is difficult to reduce the fear and stress endured by animals going to slaughter, or being used in sport, entertainment or as companions. But it is likely to be even more difficult if the law does not recognise animals as sentient beings, to whose welfare we should pay full regard.

Slaughter house personnel are perceived as being somewhat [rough in handling](#) the [animals](#) under their care, in spite of repeated training. Unless animal sentience continues to be recognised in law, it will be even more difficult to deal with people who compromise animal welfare.

Goat Refuses To Leave Cheatham County Animal Shelter

[Sarah McCarthy](#), Jul 10, 2018

<https://www.newschannel5.com/news/goat-refuses-to-leave-cheatham-county-animal-shelter>



ASLAND CITY, Tenn. - In April, Cheatham County Animal Control officers responded to a call for three goats roaming at large on a rural road. It took a lasso

and several sets of hands to wrangle the animals up, but eventually all three were transported to the county's animal shelter.

Cont. Pg26, Col 1

Shortly after, a livestock rescue arrived to take all three animals to a new home. But one goat named Luke refused to go.

“The rescue was able to contain the two brothers but could not contain Luke,” said animal control director Kristin Reid. “Once the others were gone, we couldn’t keep Luke contained in any kind of pen or structure we had here.”

Luke escaped over and over and made himself impossible to catch. So workers decided to let him roam freely, but said he hasn’t left the property since he arrived.

“The front door is one favorite spot but he really enjoys,” Reid said. “We have a window to our free roaming cat room that has a picnic table right by it and he loves to just sit there and watch the cats.”

Luke will ultimately be moved to a rescue, but staff are still working to figure out an exact date for his departure.

Goats in Minnesota



Domestic goat dating back to the Neolithic Corded Ware period identified in Finland

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2018/02/180223111548.htm>

Date: February 23, 2018

Source: University of Helsinki

Summary: Goat hairs have been found in a grave structure that was discovered in the 1930s in Kauhava, western Finland. These are the oldest animal hairs found in Finland. From the perspective of Finnish prehistory, the finding supports the evidence of animal husbandry practised during the Corded Ware period, while also revealing details of burial rituals.

Goat hairs have been found in a grave structure that was discovered in the 1930s in Kauhava, western Finland. These are the oldest animal hairs found in Finland. From the perspective of Finnish prehistory, the finding supports the evidence of animal husbandry practised during the Corded Ware period, while also revealing details of burial rituals.



An image of a fossilised goat hair (left) compared to a modern Finnish Landrace goat hair (right). Both images are taken with a scanning electron microscope.

Credit: Krista Vajanto & Tuija Kirkinen

This is the first concrete evidence found in Finland of a goat dated back to the Neolithic Corded Ware period (in Finland ca. 2800-

2300 BCE). The animal from more than four thousand years ago was identified by its fossilised hair, found in an archaeological soil sample.

The research finding tells about the mortuary practices of the Corded Ware culture. The soil sample under investigation originated in a grave structure discovered in the 1930s in Kauhava, western Finland. The grave and its perimeter were encircled by a layer of dark soil resembling the dimensions of an animal skin. Since the hairs were found in the sample collected from the feature in question, it can be assumed that they are connected with a goat skin placed in the grave.

The identification is based on images taken with a scanning electron microscope. The fibres included in these images were identified on the basis of their structure, typical to goat hair.

“Our study proves that completely new knowledge of our past can be gained by using microscopes to study organic material in advanced states of degradation. Now that we know to look for them, hairs have been found in other soil samples as well,” explains Tuija Kirkinen.

In the light of these new findings, it is reasonable to assume that domestic animals and a herder identity have constituted a significant part of the belief system of the Corded Ware culture. This interpretation is also supported by objects made of domestic animal bones

and pottery that might have been used for storing and drinking milk found in Corded Ware graves.

“Even though Corded Ware graves found elsewhere in Europe are generally better preserved, no equivalent evidence of skins placed in the grave have been found. As our findings show, the placement of the skin of an important domestic animal in the grave produces entirely new notions on the burial rituals and belief system of the Corded Ware culture,” elaborates Marja Ahola.

Oldest animal hair found in Finland

From the perspective of Finnish prehistory, the finding supports the evidence of animal husbandry practised during the Corded Ware period. In the field of Finnish archaeology, it has long been assumed that people kept domestic animals also during the Corded Ware period. This conclusion is based on the fact that during the period, people often lived in meadow environments suited to animal husbandry. Milk residues have also been found in Corded Ware pottery. It has been difficult to prove the practice of animal husbandry, since in the acidic Finnish soil, unburnt bone is preserved only for about a thousand years. Therefore, Finland has little osseous material preserved from the Stone Age. The oldest domestic animal bones known here, for example, date back only to the later part of Stone Age in ca. 2200-1950 BCE.

“The hairs found in the Corded Ware grave in Kauhava are the oldest animal hairs found in Finland and the first evidence of goats. Our finding does indeed prove that goats were known already at that early period as far up north as Finland,” says Krista Vajanto.

The study was conducted in cooperation between the discipline of archaeology at the University of Helsinki and the Aalto University Nanomicroscopy Center.

DNA from taxidermy specimens explains genetic structure of British and Irish goats

February 28, 2017, <https://phys.org/news/2017-02-dna-taxidermy-specimens-genetic-british.html>



Male billy goat from a feral herd in Mulranny, Co. Mayo, Ireland. Credit: John Joyce

present in domestic goat breeds. The effect these pressures have had on Irish and British goat populations has been explored in a landmark DNA study that compared modern-day domestic and feral goats with museum specimens from

years gone by.

A collaborative team led by geneticists from Trinity College Dublin compared the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) of 15 historical taxidermy specimens from Britain and Ireland and nine modern samples taken from Irish dairy and feral populations.

The team has just published their results in the Royal Society journal *Biology Letters*. Their work provides the first example in which DNA from taxidermy specimens is used to answer questions about livestock genetics.

Lara Cassidy, a researcher from Trinity's School of Genetics and Microbiology, is the first author of the journal article. She said: “There is an amazing wealth of genetic information locked away in taxidermic collections of animals that were - and still are - important for agricultural reasons. As such these collections are invaluable in helping us study the population history of these domesticated animals.”

“Studying these specimens and comparing them with modern-day animals also helps to pinpoint existing populations that have retained some of the past genetic diversity, much of which has been lost to industrialized breeding. Retaining this diversity as an option for future breeding is very important, but some of these populations are being pushed to extinction.”

The geneticists' study highlights an endangered feral herd living in Mulranny, Co. Mayo, as one such unique population in need of protection. Mulranny goats show a genetic similarity to extinct 'Old Goat' populations that lived on the Isle of Skye in the 1800s. They can therefore be considered among the last remaining 'Old Irish' goats.

The 'Old Goat' populations of Britain and Ireland were once ubiquitous throughout the islands but today have been replaced in agriculture by improved Swiss breeds. The native 'Old Goats' are now only found in small feral herds, whose existence is under constant threat from habitat loss, culling and the ongoing impact of Swiss introgression.

The geneticists sampled a number of different 'Old Goat' herds among the 15 taxidermy specimens. The results showed these goats formed two genetic groupings, distinct from other European breeds. Importantly, all of the modern-day Irish dairy goats fell into a genetic groupings outside these two.

Dr Valeria Mattiangeli, one of the study's lead researchers, said: “This highlights the impact that transportation and mass importation of continental breeds has had on Ireland's goat populations, and underlines how selective breeding for agricultural purposes can impact the genetic diversity of animals.”

Seán Carolan of the Old Irish Goat Society, who is a co-author of the journal article, said: “We hope this study will play a key role in saving what was and still is a diminutive creature that is both resilient and charismatic and that represents our cultural and pastoral history.”



Pack Goat Marketplace

Butthead Pack Goats & Equipment. Packgoat kids: Togg/Alpine/Oberhasli crosses. Northern California. CAE Negative tested herd. Twenty-two years, raising & training packgoats. Kids can be seen on web: buttheadpackgoats.com. Call Dennis Willingham, 530-432-0946.

GOAT-O-RAMA

Alpine/Nubians for Packing & Dairy!
Phil & Nan Hassey -> GOAT-O-RAMA.COM

**AN AD IN GOAT TRACKS
IS THE BEST WAY TO
REACH THE ENTIRE
GOATPACKING
COMMUNITY**



Advertising CAE Status

“CAE PREVENTION PROGRAM” (May be modified by the words “strict, continuous, etc. Assumes a history of testing of does yearly, and pasteurization of all milk products.)

“CAE NEGATIVE TESTED HERD” (Use this only if your does are tested yearly or have tested negative in the current year.)

“GUARANTEED CAE FREE OR RETURN” (This means that you will replace the kid if he is found to be CAE positive at the earliest age of reliable testing, which is considered by WSU to be 12 months. This is the only context in which “CAE free” will be accepted. This does not guarantee a CAE free kid, just replacement.) Remember that you will have a year of work into a kid by the time it is testable.

Any of these choices will more clearly define a herd’s status to buyers and should be welcomed as a step forward in controlling a disease that is potentially crippling to packgoats.

Goat Tracks Advertising Pricing

		Per Issue	Year
Business Card	2x3-1/2 or 3-1/2x2	10.00	30.00
The ‘Square’	3-1/2x3-1/2	15.00	45.00
1/4 page	3-1/2x4-3/4 or 4-3/4x3-1/2	20.00	60.00
1/2 page	3-1/2x9 or 7x4-1/2	35.00	105.00
Full page	7x9	50.00	150.00
Classified, per word, contact info counts as one word		.20	.60

Submissions to Goat Tracks

PHOTOS: High-resolution jpgs are preferred, either mailed on disk or emailed to Larry@GoatTracksMagazine.org When mailing prints, please put your name and address on the back of each photo. Please include a SASE if you need your photo returned. Images sent to Goat Tracks may appear elsewhere, unless copyright is reserved when sent. Although every effort is made to return photos, Goat Tracks cannot be responsible for lost photos.

ARTICLES: Articles may be held for future issues. Submissions may be made by email or hardcopy (typed or neatly written).

Please include your contact information in case we have questions or need your data in a different format.

Subscribe to:

Goat Tracks Journal of the Working Goat

13 Norwood Place | Boise, ID 83716

larry@goattracksmagazine.org

- One Year (4 issues) \$24 – or – two years \$46
- Canada add \$4 per year (cash or check on US bank only)
- Overseas Subscriptions \$32/Yr (US currency)
- Paperless edition (\$20/Yr) (a PDF will be available for download on the website)

If you wish to pay by credit card through PayPal, simply go to [PayPal \(www.paypal.com\)](http://www.paypal.com) and request your payment be sent to:

Larry@GoatTracksMagazine.Org



Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

If this is a gift, please include your contact information so we can confirm your gift order with you.)

Food matters

Monteith admits that writing a paper focused largely on the importance of females may sound a bit out of place with one of his primary recommendations: consider hunting more ewes.

If ewes are so important, conventional wisdom goes, then wildlife managers should continue to protect them and allow only rams to be hunted.

But that ignores the other critical factor in growing big rams, he said, which is nutrition.

If a ram doesn't have access to good food, he won't grow as big. Similarly, if an ewe doesn't have access to good forage, she won't grow as big. Operating in a world where food is limited, the more ewes on the landscape, the more competition there is for groceries, Monteith said.

The professor cited the same Alberta study that tracked a bighorn sheep herd for about 10 years after all ewe hunting stopped. While the herd population nearly doubled, the number of rams available to hunt – those with a curl that went four-fifths of the way around – stayed the same.

"The proportion of males that were legal went from 66 percent and dropped down to 34 percent after they stopped shooting females," Monteith said.

There were simply more animals on the landscape with less food to go around.

Neither McWhirter, the Game and Fish biologist, nor Kilpatrick were surprised by the findings. They understand the role nutrition plays in all mammals on the landscape.

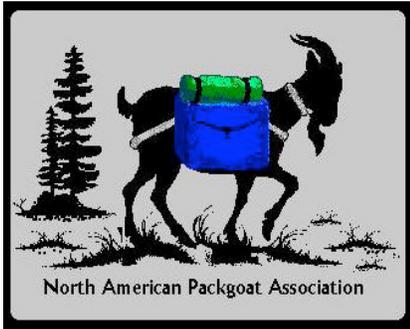
Kilpatrick likened habitat – essentially the food available to eat – to the foundation of a house.

"We drive around the countryside and we see this beautiful log house with a gorgeous fireplace and surrounding setting and we drool at that log house thinking I wish that was mine, but do we stop to think, what is the foundation under that house? The cement and rebar and how well is the draining system?" he said. "That is the habitat that underlies every wildlife population out there. The rebar and cement is equivalent of the habitat, what keeps a wildlife population upright."

Ewe hunting is still controversial in some hunting and nonhunting circles. It has only been legal in Wyoming since 2009. But the times ewe tags were made available, they've been popular, McWhirter said. The first year they were issued, in 2012, 600 Wyoming residents applied for 15 ewe/lamb tags.

Monteith's paper did not delve into the issues bighorn sheep have with disease – pneumonia outbreaks have decimated some herds – but if nutrition improves in males and females, it's only logical that they could improve their ability to tolerate disease.

"If you want big males, you need mature or older animals for them to possess large horns," he said. "And those horns or antlers don't come for free. They require a lot to grow."



Why Join NAPgA? NAPgA is the only organization that exclusively represents goatpackers, and works tirelessly to open areas for camping and hiking with your goats that are closed right now, or have come under fire for the supposed danger of goats to Bighorn Sheep. The NAPgA governing board holds regular quarterly meetings, which are open to the entire membership (Meetings are conducted via computer and Internet-base meeting software).

Where do Your Dues Go? Since this is an all-volunteer organization, there is very little 'manpower overhead' and so your dues are exclusively used for issues directly connected to goatpacker concerns. As of late, we have spent a lot of money for our legal representation, but that has been well-rewarded in our successes with our fight to keep goatpacking open in the Shoshone and other unfriendly locations. Goat packers, due to our limited time as a recognized pack entity, have our work cut out for us in order to gain recognition as a viable part of the overall 'packer' spectrum. NAPgA is the only means to get that done, and those that are a part of the current BOD are working daily to make that happen.

Please join with us NOW and help us to encourage and develop packgoating nationwide. Dues may be paid with PayPal or with a check to: **PO Box 170166, Boise, ID 83717**/ Each new membership will receive a complimentary NAPgA member's patch!

Membership Classes:

Bronze,	\$20
Silver,	\$50
Gold,	\$100
Youth,	\$10

By becoming a member, you help NAPgA work to keep the wilderness open to Packgoats

NAPgA Mail Application

Date: _____ Date Received: _____

Member Name(s): _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ eMail: _____

Brief Description of Packgoat Experience and/or Interest:

Contact: napga.org@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.napga.org>

WORKING GOAT DIRECTORY

For only \$10 per year, (That's \$2.50 an issue), advertise your name, address, and goat related items that you offer, such as equipment, pack or breeding animals, stud service, outfitting services, artwork, ANYTHING relating to working goats. Even if you don't have anything to sell, this is a great way to just let other working goat enthusiasts know that you are out there. There is a 15 word limit (address and phone count as one word). Underline key words and they will be highlighted. Listings will be organized by state.

ARIZONA

PURPLE MOUNTAIN PACKGOATS

Family Adventures. Day Hikes, Cookouts, Campouts
120 S. Houghton Rd. #138, Box 222
Tucson, AZ 85748, 520-403-4056
AZ Packgoat@aol.com

GRANDMA'S PACKGOATS

Kids for Sale - CAE Free or Return
Box 308, Aguila, AZ 85320, 928-685-2476
powell@tabletotelephone.com

CALIFORNIA

BUTT-HEAD PACKGOATS & EQUIPMENT

Packgoats bred for packing:
Toggenburgs, Oberhasli, Alpine mix
CAE Prevention Program
Best quality goatpacking equipment
PO Box 333
Rough and Ready, CA 95975
530-432-0946
bhpackgoats@hotmail.com
www.ButtHeadPackGoats.com

SHUTEYE PACKGOATS

Rodney York
Packgoats for sale-CAE Free or replace
33721 Bonnie "B" Road
North Fork, CA 93643
559-877-2701
Nfspanky@gmail.com

IDAHO

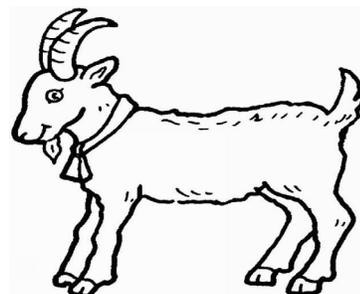
NORTHWEST PACKGOATS & SUPPLIES

Saddles. Packs & Pads Saddle kits & Economy 4-H kits
147 Wilson Rd.
Weippe, ID 83553
1-888-PACKGOAT
www.northwestpackgoats.com

OREGON

Eagle Creek Packgoats and Publishers
Kids & Trained Yearlings
Books for goatpackers and goat owners
CAE prevention program
PO Box 755
Estacada, OR 97023
971-230-4338
ecpg@peoplepc.com

4F Packgoat Club Terry Ryan 8099 N Beaver Road Seal Rock, OR 97376 541-563-5385	Cloverleaf 4-H Club Judy Bevaart/Sandy Roberts 27316 - 145th St. E. Buckley, WA 98321 253-850-3065
Four Seasons Goat Trekkers Club Kim Buechel/Donna Semasko 7244 40th Ct. NE Lacey, WA 98516 360-491-4528/360-923-1451	Frederick County 4-H Packgoat Group Frederick, Maryland www.4hpackgoats.org 4hpackgoats@gmail.com
Glacier County Kids 4-H Club Chuck Taylor PO Box 190623 Hungry Horse, MT 59919 406-387-5012	Pollock Pines Mountaineers Lori and Dan Mobley 3062 Castlewood Circle Pollock Pines, CA 95726
Siskiyou 4-H Packgoats Dave and Peggy Nicholson 11524 Big Springs Road Montague, CA 96064	Sheboygan Co. 4-H Goat Ruth Van Sluys W4791 County Rd. PP Plymouth, WI 53073 920-893-0662
Lake Co. 4-H Packgoat Club Rende and Bruce Burns PO Box 1194 Cobb, CA 95426 707-928-4519	Jest Kiddin' Around Danielle Fear 959 E Jones Creek Rd. Grants Pass, OR 97526 541-471-0838



GOAT TRACKS:
Journal of the Working Goat
13 Norwood Place
Boise, ID 83716-3283



Goat Tracks Magazine
The only magazine
dedicated to packgoats.

GoatTracksMagazine.org



Feeding time for the Nubian kids