



The NAPgA Bleat!

The Official Newsletter of the North American Packgoat Association

January 2016

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From the President

Dear NAPgA members and fellow goat packers -

2016 is here and I hope that you are planning your summer trips as I am! Hopefully it will include coming to this year's Rendy, located near Ukiah, Oregon!

If you were not able to make it to last year's Rendy in West Yellowstone, you really missed out! We had fabulous guest speakers which included John Mionczynski and Dr. Maggie Highland from Washington State University, as well as some fabulous food at our potluck dinners, and our entertaining auction! We'd love to have you come if you can make it!

Dates are the very last weekend in June, from the 23rd to the 26th. Watch for details at www.napgga.org.

On another topic — They say the wheels of justice turn slowly... we teamed up with the Idaho Wool Growers Association and filed a lawsuit against the US Forest Service last June, for violating a 2009 Court Order concerning using advisory committee information for future agency decisions (such as forest plan revisions). We are waiting to hear back on this from our Attorney, who has assured us that the acting judge is well aware of our lawsuit and is in the stack to be dealt with.

A sincere heartfelt thanks to all of you who have donated your precious time and money in helping us keep our forests open to recreational goatpacking. We have a lot of work to do. Along with local clubs and private individuals, NAPgA joins all of you in educating USFS and Game & Fish personnel that improved Bighorn Sheep Herd Management is a major issue, as well as implementation of Best Management Practices amongst packgoat owners.

We respectfully ask that you renew your NAPgA membership for 2016, and be sure to tell your friends about NAPgA and how important it is to become a member so that we all can continue to enjoy the beautiful National Forests in the western United States.

Happy packing!

Charlie Jennings
President

A Bright Spot has Arisen on the Goatpacker's Horizon!

For the first time since this nonsensical attempt to throw our goats out of the woods first arose in 2011, there seems to be some good news. Please read through and see how you can actually have a hand in, if not stopping this juggernaut, at least slowing it down to a reasonable crawl!

Dr. Maggie Highland, a wildlife expert who has chosen not to blindly follow the standard wildlife biologist's mantra, 'goats are dangerous', 'goats are dangerous', is actually attempting to bring some sanity into this discussion.

What she has proposed, is a sampling of our animals to determine what percentage are carrying the most recent bad-guy pathogen in this arena, *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (movi). Movi has emerged due to the recent research by Dr. Tom Besser, as a key player in the sickening of Bighorn Sheep.

What will be necessary is the nasal swabbing, and blood specimen drawing by a vet, with the samples being send to ADRU in Pullman, WA.

Please note: All costs will be covered by ADRU-ARS-USDA to perform this prevalence/surveillance project, including veterinary charges (when/if applicable), supplies and shipping, and testing. However, this is only in the event that we receive enough owners willing to participate in order to make this a statistically valid surveillance analysis.

As noted above, the number of participants in this survey must be sufficient to make this a '*statistically valid surveillance analysis*'.

What we need from you right now, is an indication of your willingness to participate in this program. You can do that by returning to me your Name and eMail as before Maggie can begin this project, she/we need a valid estimate of the number of folks willing to participate.

Your participation in this program has the potential to drastically alter the current climate of hostility towards our goats. Please consider taking part. All it will ask of you is your time.

Rendezvous 2016!

June 23-26

As Charlie said, this year's Rendezvous is going to be held in Oregon at a dispersed camping area a few miles south of Ukiah, which is approximately 50 miles south of Pendleton, OR. It looks like an ideal site for our event, and Curtis King, Taffy Mercer are working on the details for this event.

Driving instructions will be on the website, as well as the pictures, and details as they develop.

[NAPgA Rendezvous Webpage](#)



The Reaalllly Big Picture!



The Ukiah Area



The Camp Itself

A couple pictures -- More on the website

