



Goat Tracks



Journal of the Working Goat - Fall 2020

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



Bernard Lake

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Goat Tracks

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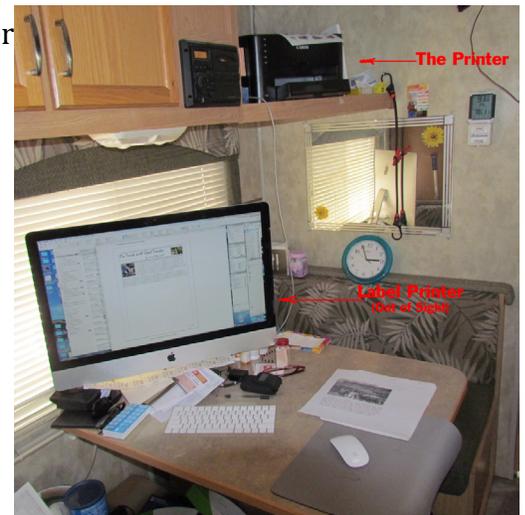
On Track with Goat Tracks

by Larry Robinson



Life certainly does contain its twists and turns. Boise, ID, which has been my home for the past 36 years, is now in the rear-view mirror as I am headed for new digs in Glenwood, NM. Glenwood is not exactly a stranger to me, as I snowbirded here on several past occasions at a motel/RV park that also has stalls for horses. When I arrived the first time, the owner, Polly Tipton, set up one stall with cattle panels so the goats could not go exploring on their own. Polly sadly has now gone home to be with the Lord after 2 or 3 absolutely miserable years of chemo and other indignities. God rest her soul. I cared for her mightily.

Goat Tracks marches on, however, and therefore immediately after my arrival here I will have to get the Fall issue to the printer (As it turns out, GT did not make it to the printer until mid-Sept). The bad news, at least for me, is that I will be having to get the necessary computer work done in my 25' travel trailer in Polly's old RV park, as I am searching at this point for new digs in the local area. It *will* be good to regain some semblance of stability. Living in a trailer has some definite drawbacks, miniscule space immediately comes to mind.



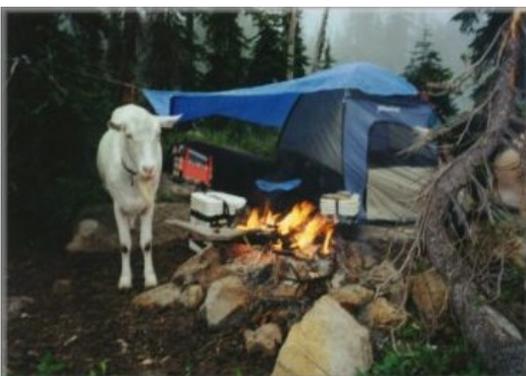
The abysmally small workspace

Land use is a bit on the quiet side right now as the only one jurisdiction that is doing a land use plan that needs commented on, and that is the Custer Gallatin, and you can only object to the plan's provisions if you already commented previously, and therefore have 'standing'.

No one has commented on it to this point, but I occasionally articles, articles that I feel are exceptionally good, from the past issues of Goat Tracks. I am comfortable doing that as I have noted in the past, this is not a for-profit medium, it is a labor of love exclusively. :-)

Finally, I almost never receive a 'Letter to the Editor' from my readership. I'd love to hear from y'all!

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!



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**A little PR from an unanticipated source. the Hickory NC Trout Unlimited September 2020 Newsletter
A UNIQUE FISHING ADVENTURE**



My sister is into pack goats and recently sent me some information about a fellow she knows who does pack goat trips into the high mountain lakes of Idaho to take guests on fishing trips. The goats will carry your load so you will enjoy the hike without a heavy backpack. They bring pack rafts that allow you to float out to the middle of the lake for fishing.

For more details check out <https://packgoats.com/>.



You've no doubt heard of the 'Hole in the Wall' gang, well here is the 'Head in the Barrel' Goat, Bogdan. One possible explanation for this behavior, especially since it was hotter than a firecracker at the time, is that it hides his head from the hordes of flies.

NAPgA's Best Management Practices Video with Marc Warnke & Curtis King

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hTVEz04Hdl4&feature=youtu.be>

Goats on the roof keep their trademark at Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant

Christopher Clough, Green Bay Press-Gazette, Published 7/21/20
<https://www.greenbaypressgazette.com/story/news/local/door-co/entertainment/2020/07/21/goats-roof-still-trademarked-al-johnsons-swedish-restaurant/5476162002/>

A crowd in the street views the goats of Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant & Butik in Sister Bay, WI, on their summer home, the sod roof of the business.



SISTER BAY - A nine-year legal battle involving the goats on the roof at Al Johnson's Swedish Restaurant Restaurant & Butik was ended by the U.S. Supreme Court.

The court decided it would not hear an appeal by New York-based attorney Todd C. Bank against the "goats on a roof of grass" trademark held by the Sister Bay restaurant.

Goats spend the summers on the sod-covered roof, and their presence has made the restaurant a nationally known tourist attraction; they even have their own "Goat Cam" on the restaurant's website and are featured in a "Weekly Does of Goat" series on YouTube.com. Al Johnson's was awarded the trademark in 1996.

RELATED: [Al Johnson's 'goats on the roof' get a YouTube video series](#)

Bank first petitioned the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Trademark Trial and Appeals Board to strip the restaurant of the trademark in 2011, at first on behalf of a client, Robert Doyle. Bank claimed damages because the goats were demeaned by being on the roof, he said.

The board ruled against Bank, but he continued to pursue the case, appealing three more times, with Bank claiming the demeaning of the goats demeaned him as well.

The most recent case ended up in U.S. Federal Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled in December that Bank had no right to sue to strip the trademark because he couldn't show he was harmed by the trademark, therefore he had no standing in the case. The court also called Bank's suit and appeals "frivolous" and ordered him to pay the restaurant's attorney fees and court costs.

Bank petitioned the Supreme Court in April to consider the case by filing a writ of certiorari, which asks the court to accept the files from the federal appeals court and review the case. The Supreme Court's denial brings the case to an end.

See the goats, the Goat Cam: <http://www.aljohnsons.com/goat-cam/>

The above just underscores how stupid and petty some people can be. Frivolous was indeed an appropriate way to describe this case. GT Ed.

Land Use Issues

FWP will reintroduce bighorn sheep to Little Belt Mountains

By: John Riley, Aug 14, 2020

<https://www.kbzk.com/news/fwp-will-reintroduce-bighorn-sheep-to-little-belt-mountains>

Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks may begin the reintroduction of bighorn sheep to the Little Belt Mountains southeast of Great Falls as soon as this winter.

The Fish & Wildlife Commission unanimously approved the effort at their August 13 meeting. The commission praised the plan and the department's efforts in reestablishing historic herds in the state.

"For me, it's exciting," Vice-Chairman Richard Stuker said. "It's something that dates back quite a number of years. Before we've told the department we'd like to see areas relocated versus going out of state, and they are fulfilling that."

Bighorn sheep had historically been common in the mountains until their population was decimated in the early 1900s. Famed artist Charlie Russell wrote in the 1880s about the area: "These parks and the mountains behind them swarmed with deer, elk, mountain sheep and bear, besides beaver and other small fur-bearing animals."

In 1962 FWP transplanted 18 bighorn sheep into the Sheep Creek area of the Little Belts. However, that restoration attempt ultimately failed.

The new reintroduction plans will work to establish herds of at least 125 sheep, with the goal of some level of connectivity forming between the herds in the mountain range.

FWP says a self-sustaining bighorn sheep population in the Little Belts would provide important aesthetic and recreational benefits to the area.

The department also notes the hunting of bighorn sheep is quite popular, as is the viewing of the sheep battling.

The initial translocations of bighorns to the Little Belts could commence as soon as December of 2020.

House committee's vote to bomb Nevada is a stunning betrayal

Thursday, July 9, 2020

<https://lasvegassun.com/news/2020/jul/09/house-committees-vote-to-bomb-nevada-is-a-stunning/>

Members of the House Armed Services Committee slapped Nevada hard in the face last week by voting to allow the Air Force to take a huge chunk of the Desert National Wildlife Refuge to use as a bombing range.

Now, it's up to the state's House members to slap back and keep this deeply troublesome proposal from being rammed down our throat.

The expansion would allow bombing on 850,000 acres — 468

square miles, if you prefer — of one of Nevada's most precious natural treasures. The refuge, the second-largest in the United States outside of Alaska, supports a remarkable array of wildlife and flora spread over six mountain ranges. It's a rich habitat for bighorn sheep, and offers some of the state's best recreation areas.

Nevadans don't want it to be blown up. We've been loud and clear on that, whether it was the state Senate and Assembly passing resolutions opposing the expansion, or coalitions of tribal groups, environmentalists and outdoor-recreation enthusiasts forming to fight it. Nevadans also spearheaded a national campaign, #DontBombTheBighorn, that led to 32,000 people submitting comments to the Air Force opposing the incursion.

But the committee, which contains no members from Nevada, steamrolled us last week when it voted unanimously to approve a version of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) — the military budget — that included the expansion.

It's especially shocking that not one of the panel's 30 Democrats came to the defense of Nevadans and our environment. The budget passed on a 56-0 voice vote, with one Republican member absent. Keep in mind too that the Republican-led Senate Armed Forces Committee approved a version of the NDAA that didn't include the Nellis Air Force Base expansion or a similar one at Naval Air Station Fallon. That's right, Senate Republicans were more protective of Nevada than House Democrats.

For Rep. Steven Horsford, D-Nev., whose district includes the Nellis expansion area, this is an SOS situation and a massive betrayal by his party. We trust he'll lead the Southern Nevada delegation in doing whatever they can to get the project out of the final NDAA.

Surely, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi will back the local delegation. In this critical election year, why would any Democratic Party leader antagonize supporters of the desert refuge — many of whom are progressives and moderate Republicans — by forcing the bombing range on us?

The Air Force says it needs the extra space because of technological advancements that allow planes to fly higher and launch ordnance from farther distances than ever. Without knowing all the alternatives, we assume the need is legitimate, but the Desert National Wildlife Refuge isn't the place for it. The area is too environmentally fragile, and the space that would be overtaken is too large. Plus, as has become particularly evident in these past few months, the ability to get out and enjoy natural areas is vital to our health and well-being. It also is a growing source of tourism for our state. As such, it's important to protect our outdoor recreation industry as we recover from the economic tsunami triggered by the coronavirus pandemic.

Let's be clear: Nevadans fully support Nellis and are proud that the installation is part of our community. But there's got to be a better way to meet the Air Force's training needs without bombing a natural jewel. The desert refuge must be protected for the sake of the wild things living there, for our own enjoyment and for future generations.

Research conducted on M.ovi may turn up ways for domestic, wild sheep to share the same plains

Teresa Clark for The Fence Post, News, October 11, 2019

<https://www.thefencepost.com/news/research-conducted-on-m-ovi-may-turn-up-ways-for-domestic-wild-sheep-to-share-the-same-plains/>

Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae (M.ovi) are two long words that have caused a lot of hate and discontent among people with sheep interests in the Western United States, according to one South Dakota State University researcher. The bacteria is a very small organism that inhabits the nasal cavity and respiratory tract of wild and domestic sheep and goats, according to Laura McHale.

“It is often spread through nose to nose contact or close contact with animals through projectiles like sneezing and nasal discharge,” she said.

The M.ovi debate centers around grazing domestic sheep and goats on public lands. It has caused a lot of problems for domestic sheep producers, especially in states like Idaho, Montana and Wyoming, where there are more public lands. “If a state has domestic sheep and wild sheep, there has been an issue. Wild sheep interests have worked very hard to get domestic sheep producers off public lands. In many cases, they have been successful in taking away government allotments for domestic sheep,” McHale said.

When a group of wild sheep get M.ovi, the impact can be significant, McHale said. “In wild sheep, it almost always results in some degree of pneumonia. Animals that survive will become carriers, and some will become shedders. They will sneeze and have nasal discharge. In ewes that lamb, it can cause lamb mortality,” she said. “We have seen that in the Pine Ridge area of Nebraska. In 2016, 2017 and 2018, every Big Horn sheep lamb has died, which is an average of about 45 of them. Not every one of them was from M. M.ovi, but a large proportion of them were.”

“In Nebraska, no one can tell you what to do with your sheep or goats. Other states aren’t so lucky.”

McHale’s research project, which is federally funded, is looking at the presence of M.ovi and its strain types in domestic sheep herds. The project will also attempt to identify factors that may influence respiratory disease prevalence in domestic sheep herds.

The project started last year and will finish up in June 2021, in the Wildcat Hills and Pine Ridge areas of Nebraska. “There are a lot of questions about contamination from Big Horn Sheep to domestic sheep, and vice versa. This study initially involved 100 head of sheep in Pine Ridge and 100 head in the Wildcat Hills. Currently, we have 36 producers and 330 sheep involved in the project,” McHale said.

The producers and sheep participating in the project maintain complete anonymity. “In my research, everyone cooperating in it has total confidentiality. There are no

costs involved to the producer. Producers get copies of all the test results. There is no record of producer by name, or by specific geographic location. I code every producer and each of their sheep,” McHale said.

THREE PARTS

The research is in three parts. The first is collecting nasal swabs by swabbing the nostrils with a Q-Tip. She also swabs the throat for presence of secondary bacteria. “Typically, we test every animal in the flock, and I usually do it when they are running them through for something else. I send in a random sample and store the rest. If there is an outbreak, we can pull more samples and get them tested. If there is a positive sample, the lab will strain test it,” she said.

McHale also records general data about each animal like age, sex, body condition, and health issues. If it is a ewe that will lamb, she collects information on the lamb, like birth weight, and if it is a single, twin, or triplet. “I may also go back and perform additional testing if the lamb is sick or a producer is adding animals to the flock,” she said.

If there is a death, McHale also goes back to take more nasal samples and collects three lung samples. “The lab can test lung tissue to determine if there is significant lung changes that have caused the mortality,” she said. Typically, she can have the results within seven to 10 days, although the strain testing can take longer.

The second part of the research is a disease ecology survey, which is a three-page survey that lists factors that may be contributing to M.ovi like pasture, feed regimens, antibiotic use and density of sheep. The third part of the research is the human dimension survey, which is conducted to gauge opinions and attitudes of sheep producers about M.ovi.

With less than 2.8 percent of public land in Nebraska, McHale said conducting a study like this has been very beneficial. “In Nebraska, no one can tell you what to do with your sheep or goats. Other states aren’t so lucky,” she said. Idaho has 75 percent public land and Wyoming has 50 percent. “There are a lot of people out there sympathetic to wild sheep and trying to get domestic sheep off public grazing lands. The Nebraska Game and Parks Commission has put a lot of effort into studying M.ovi in wild sheep, and they also collar them so they can monitor what is causing their mortality. The bottom line is in Nebraska, it doesn’t matter who gives it to who. Domestic sheep and wild sheep are closely related, and if a domestic sheep comes up to a wild sheep, it will spread from one to the other. It isn’t either ones fault, it’s just biology,” she said.

Does the future of M.ovi include vaccine development?

In February, the NGPC captured seven ewes in Pine Ridge that have tested positive every year for M.ovi. “They

were probably shedding the bacteria, and were probably responsible for the deaths of the lambs,” she said. These ewes, who were deemed chronic carriers, have been taken to SDSU for more testing. McHale said they may be used for the future development of a multi-strain vaccine that could help future survival of both domestic and wild sheep. “In Nebraska, we aren’t looking to get rid of domestic sheep. We just want to remove M.ovi, so we can have domestic sheep and wild sheep on the same landscape. Instead of declaring war on each other, it would be better if we could declare war on M.ovi,” she said.

— Clark is a freelance livestock journalist from western Nebraska. She can be reached by email at tclarklivenews@gmail.com.

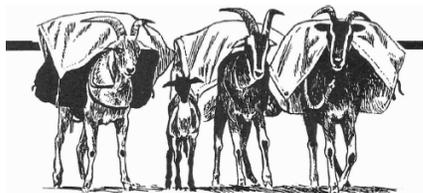
I can't help but believe that there isn't at least one person out there thinking, "Why devote so much space to Bighorn Sheep? Isn't this a goatpacking magazine?" To answer the second question first, yes, the primary thrust of Goat Tracks is goat packing or goat carting, using a wide definition of those terms.

However, there is no greater threat to the use of the forests with our goats than Bighorn Sheep (BHS). Not because BHS themselves are so dangerous, but because land managers have taken on the 'cause' of BHS, due to the fact that they are having troubles keeping the herds alive in some locations, and have unfairly and completely without substance targeted our goats as the primary vector of the diseases that are afflicting BHS. Is there any evidence for this? Any science? Hardly. There never has been a BHS die-off that has been traced back to a packgoat, but they need something to tell the public that they are 'doing' to stop the die-offs, which incidentally are not stopping, and so goats it is. They are the culprit.

So, anytime there are BHS in or introduced to an area, you can be certain that a land closure to goats will follow. Just in the time I have been involved in goatpacking, there have many areas lost to those of us that would use a goat to assist us in our travels. In Idaho, where I spent the last 36 years, there recently was a closure instituted in the White Cloud mountains. Was there a shred of a justification for this closure? No, but in spite of the 3-1/2 pages of rebuttal that I submitted, closed it is.

BHS will be a threat to our freedom to use the land as long as land managers refuse to face the fact that we are NOT the problem with BHS die-offs. Certainly there is a problem here, it is just that WE ARE NOT IT.

larry robinson, Goat Tracks



Meet The Adorable Beach Goats Of Prince Edward Island

Lavanya Sunkara, Contributor

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/lavanyasunkara/2019/10/10/meet-the-adorable-beach-goats-of-prince-edward-island/#5ca2dd5b7eed>



Goat yoga is so yesterday's news. Now, the Beach Goats of Prince Edward Island want to hang out with you as you go paddle boarding or beach combing.

They even go with visitors in search of oysters and play dress up for Halloween or just about any fun occasion. Located in Richmond an hour from Charlottetown in Canada's Prince Edward Island, the furry residents of Beach Goats have been entertaining locals and travelers alike since the beginning of 2019. The sweet babies and their mamas are around year-round so you can visit or have them come to you for special events and celebrations.

Owner Devon Saila said, “The reason we started Beach Goats was really simply because we saw the joy the goats brought to the few people we reached when we took them out with us and wanted more people to be able to enjoy them.” Saila runs the farm with help from her mom and her 11-year-old son.

At any given time, there are at least 16 or so goats for guests to mingle with. Saila's love for goats began when she was young, but it wasn't until she was in her 30s that she began obtaining them. It started with two twin baby boys named Captain and Jack, then came Sparrow (all with pirate-inspired names). “Then we started collecting goats like Pokémon cards,” Saila said.

There are several ways you can spend quality time and make memories with the goats of Prince Edward Island while taking in the wonderful views of the island. Summertime means warm waters and pleasant weather where you can enjoy playing with the goats on the sandbars of the Northumberland Strait, go in search of oysters, try paddle boarding and end the day with a beach campfire.



Affordable Movi Testing

Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory now offers *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* testing

Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae testing is now available at the Kansas State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (KSVDL). The KSVDL is fully accredited by The American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD) and a Level 1 laboratory of the USDA National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN). More information can be found at the KSVDL homepage: <http://www.ksvdl.org/>.

The test cost per sample is \$38, and KSVDL does not charge out-of-state fees. The test has a rapid 1-2 day turnaround time. KSVDL also offers discounted UPS shipping (UPS Next Day Air: \$15.50, 2nd Day Air: \$9.50, and Ground \$7.50). Details regarding the shipping of samples and testing are at the following links:

<https://vetview2.vet.k-state.edu/LabPortal/catalog/show/4221945>

<http://www.ksvdl.org/laboratories/default-sample-submission.html>

This newly developed and validated assay is a duplex PCR that specifically detects and differentiates the presence of both *M. ovipneumoniae* and a second respiratory-associated mycoplasma bacterium that has been referred to as “*Mycoplasma conjunctivae*-like” bacterium or “Mc-I”. Although it remains unknown whether or not “Mc-I” plays any role in disease (currently considered “non-pathogenic”), this bacterium has previously caused false positive *M. ovipneumoniae* test results when using test methods published prior to 2017. Therefore, specifically differentiating and identifying the presence of these two mycoplasmas (*M. ovipneumoniae* and “Mc-I”) in nasal swabs or lung tissue specimens is relevant.

The development of this assay was encouraged by Dr. Maggie Highland, and made possible by the hard work and dedication of Dr. Jianfa Bai and Dr. Lance Noll within the Molecular Research and Development section of the KSVDL. Samples for test validation were provided by the USDA-ARS-Animal Disease Research Unit in Pullman, WA, where Dr. Highland worked for 9 years researching small ruminant infectious diseases with particular focus on *M. ovipneumoniae*. In August 2019, Dr. Highland moved to Manhattan, KS to begin a career as a Veterinary Anatomic Pathologist with the KSVDL and Assistant Professor in the Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine at Kansas State University (where the KSVDL is housed). She continues her now decade long career in infectious disease research with focus on respiratory pathogens, particularly *Mycoplasma* species. Her KSU profile and contact information can be found here: <https://www.vet.k-state.edu/academics/dmp/faculty-staff/faculty/highland/index.html>.

Maggie stated, “I welcome anyone with questions or comments regarding this new *M. ovipneumoniae* testing, or any KSVDL testing, to contact the KSVDL, or me directly at the phone number or email address provided in my profile link.”

How genetically modified New Zealand goats could help fight cancer

By: [Jamie Morton](#), Science Reporter, NZ Herald, 14 Jun, 2020
https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12339750

Genetically-modified goats could make a big difference in the war against our biggest killer, New Zealand scientists have found.



Over recent decades, researchers have increasingly turned to antibodies - the main weapons of our immune system - to fight cancer.

While our immune system normally makes use of a large collection of antibodies that can target slightly different parts of a pathogen, one in particular is capable of recognising a single, specific target.

That's made what are called monoclonal antibodies - or mAbs - exciting candidates for anti-cancer therapy, with the potential to exploit differences between cancer cells and normal ones.

One of the best-known examples today is breast cancer therapy Herceptin, designed to spot and bind to the HER2 proteins on the surface of cancer cells.

AgResearch senior scientist Dr Goetz Laible said mAbs continued to represent an important class of pharmaceutical proteins for the treatment of many serious human diseases, cancer among them.

However, therapies required the application of relatively large amounts of mAb for each patient - and getting that scale out of traditional lab-based methods wasn't so easy.

“Mammalian cells need a highly controlled environment for their culture which causes high production and scale-up costs,” Laible said.

That's where animals - capable of producing large amounts of these proteins in their milk - could speed things up.

In a new study, Laible and colleagues turned to transgenic goats - or those that have had a foreign gene deliberately inserted into their genome - to see if they'd make a suitable platform for cetuximab, an mAb commercially produced as Erbitux.

From the Training Pen

(The Best of Rex Summerfield)

Your First Big Trip! Are you Ready?



So...

You're ready for your first big trip. You have raised your goat for two years now, with careful attention to nutrition and health concerns. You have trained it to lead, tie, and stay out of your gear. You have taken it on numerous hikes and put the saddle and empty bags on it. You have done everything you could think of in preparation for the first big trip.

As you plan ahead, some last minute thoughts cause slight feelings of apprehension. What if the bugs are bad? What if a stray dog attacks the goat? What if it runs off with our things? How about shelter? Should we tie up the feed? The fear starts to build until you begin to wonder if this goatpacking thing was such a good idea after all.

Not to worry, goatpacking is as easy as you have heard. It is not without responsibilities on your part, but with a small amount of preparation you can hit the trail with confidence.

The most important thing for you to do on you maiden voyage is to have some realistic goals. Don't take a young half grown goat with only a few hikes under it's belt and expect it to do a marathon march to a far away peak. You are asking for aggravation and disappointment. Plan with your animals characteristics in mind.

Before you start, plan on a way to control your goat if the need arises. Examples would include meeting other hikers, horse back riders or loose dogs. This is easily accomplished by putting a lead rope on each goat and looping it around the saddle so it is available to grab at a moments notice. One reason for restraining your goat will be to keep them from bothering other trail users. We may love our goats but I can tell you that outfitters and other trail users often do not share our feelings. We owe it to them and our image to let them enjoy their own trip without being mobbed by a pack of friendly goats.

If you encounter a loose dog, grab the lead rope to keep the goat from running. A running animal excites a dog and makes things worse. If the dog has an owner, ask in a courteous manner for them to please hold their dog until you are past. In the rare case where the dog is trying to actually bite the goat then use what ever means necessary to make it back off. A can of pepper spray works great for this purpose, but try to use the minimum amount of force necessary. Usually a stern

word and a thrown stick is all it takes. The nice thing about goats is that they seem to view us as their security blanket. When they get nervous they move in close, making it easy to grab the lead rope.

On the trail watch to see that the goat is not getting too tired. It is common for goats to lag behind nibbling leaves while you walk ahead. Before you are out of sight they will jog to catch up only to stop again at the next interesting snack.' After they begin to tire a little, they will fall into line behind you stopping less and less.

A little trail experience with the goat will let you tell at a glance when the goat needs a break. Don't go by how tired you feel because you are not the one carrying the pack. It is your responsibility to watch the goat.

Once at camp you can turn the goat loose to feed while you set up. Packing in feed for your goats is unnecessary as long as there is plenty of edible vegetation. Goats really do thrive on common old everyday leaves and weeds. Taking a little grain for treats is a good way to make the goat feel better about being away from the barn, but is not a necessity. Most National Forests are now requiring that all feed and bedding be certified weed seed free, so in many cases its easier to just leave it all home.

To tie or not to tie that's the question... well at least a common question by novice packers. I answer by saying that most properly bonded goats will stay at camp if you are at camp. If you leave, they will leave. If they lose you, or think they have lost you, they will leave. I always tie new goats the first few nights until they get the idea that I didn't leave, I only went into the tent. After that I let them run loose. Exceptions to this would be if I was camped on a trail likely to have other hikers going by. Goats are known to head out with a stranger going in' an interesting direction. Heavy rain or irritating bugs could also cause the goats to seek cover or head for parts unknown trying to escape the problem. If I suspect any of these might apply then I tie. Rare or delicate plants in the area or a goat that bothers everything in camp, might also be reasons to tie. [I'm afraid that times have changed in a very large way since Rex wrote this one. At this point, there is NO choice NOT to tie/highline. There are such large potential ramifications should a goat get lost, especially in Bighorn country, that highlining is now considered MANDATORY in all situations.]

If you decide to tie, don't tie them to a tree or other object likely to be viewed as edible by the goat. With nothing but time on its hands, even the most mannerly goat will strip a tree of its bark. That not only gives goatpackers a bad rap but it could cost you a hefty fine in some areas. One recommended way to tie your goat is the high line method. It consists of a line tied between two solid objects about five feet off of the ground. Loops tied in the line every fifteen feet or so allow you to tie the goats lead rope directly to the loop. Leave enough slack so the goat can touch noses with its neighbor, if you have more than one goat, but can't become tangled. Make sure you use a swivel snap on the lead rope or the goat could twist its collar tight enough to strangle itself no matter what method of tying you use.

If you use the high line, you can also put a tarp over it and secure the corners making a temporary shelter for the goat on rainy nights. An 8' x 10' tarp is adequate for two goats, tied in a lean-to fashion. A larger tarp is needed for a tent style set up. Experiment at home to determine the right size for your needs. If you don't tie the goat you can still use the tarp for a goat shelter but it has been my experience that if several goats are being used, the dominant goat hogs the tarp while the others shelter under a nearby tree. If it's a light rain, I let them all find a tree. If it is a heavy rain then I would tie them and use the tarp over the high line.

If you find yourself in an area infested with mosquitoes or flies use regular bug repellent on the goats. Spray the bug spray onto your hand and wipe it on the goats paying special attention to the head and neck areas. The goats will hate it, but the bugs will leave them alone. Speaking of bugs, if you plan to tie your goat then you need to check the area for ant or bee nests. It would be a very miserable goat who was inadvertently tied on an ant hill or within reach of a bee hive. If you are in an area with ticks then inspect each goat at the end of each day. Several brands of tick repellent are available and recommended, if you are finding them on your goat regularly.

Everything mentioned here is pretty basic trail sense. The more you practice it, the more natural all of it will seem. The majority of your trips will not require you to provide shelter, tie, or feed your goat, but if the need arises you will be prepared.

The first trip is always the most worrisome, but often the most enjoyable too because of the newness of the experience. The nagging apprehension will melt away as you and the goat learn what works best for you and when you have it all figured out, just imagine five years from now when a new goatpacker comes up to you and asks, "What should I be prepared for on my first trip?" You will give them a friendly smile and respond "Don't worry there is nothing to it."

Goat rescued after getting stuck in Brighton irrigation pipe

Author: **Bobbi Sheldon**, Published: **June 10, 2020**

<https://www.9news.com/article/life/animals/goat-rescue-brighton/73-0239f5f1-e66a-42fe-8e4d-7af8f5ef624d>

You've "goat" to be kidding me! A small goat was rescued by firefighters Tuesday after getting stuck in a irrigation pipe.

BRIGHTON, Colo. — It's not every day that Brighton Fire Rescue responds to a call for a goat in need of rescue, but on Tuesday firefighters with the department did just that.



Firefighters with Engine 55 were called to help free a goat that got stuck about 12 feet down an irrigation pipe. Photos from the scene show several other concerned goats standing by as firefighter worked to free the distressed goat.

Because the goat was so far inside the pipe, firefighters decided to dig it up, disconnect it and lift it with a skid steer out of the ground. From there, the goat was able to make its way out of the pipe, a tweet from the department says.

"We're happy to report the goat was healthy and happy to be out!" the tweet says.



Judging by the photo below, the goat is indeed relieved to be free and roaming once again. Carry on, little guy!

4 Guard Dogs Protect Colorado Goats from Black Bear

https://newcountry991.com/4-guard-dogs-protect-colorado-goats-from-black-bear-watch/?utm_source=tsmclip&utm_medium=referral

John Carrigan posted a video to YouTube showing his livestock guardians in action.

A black bear appeared on land his goats grazed when 4 livestock guard dogs jumped into action to protect the herd.

Carrigan went to YouTube to post the video saying "the bear didn't stand a chance".



Video: <https://youtu.be/ZWnSqyBhv2U>

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Lost in Death Hollow: Part 3

In the last episode, Phil and I (Nan) with our goats Finn and Sputnik had just spent a delightful but grueling day hiking up the wrong canyon. The goats fell into the creek several times and the packs were soaked. It was almost dark when we rounded a bend and found two men camping by the creek bank.

“Where the heck are we??” I blurted without preamble. The men were taken aback by my abrupt and unexpected question.

“Boulder Mail Trail at the Death Hollow crossing,” they answered.

We introduced ourselves. Their names were Bill and Adrian and they were very accommodating when we asked if we might join their camping spot for the night. They had settled down under a large pine tree, but Phil and I commandeered it for the purpose of hanging all of our wet things up to dry. Finn and Sputnik wasted no time in digging a couple of nests for themselves in the sand. They were too tired to eat. Phil and I would have loved to eat but we were out of food. Instead we got busy finding our headlamps so we could set up our tent and roll out our sodden sleeping bags.

I asked Bill and Adrian to show me where we were on a map. They explained that they had hiked from the town of Boulder, which is 15-20 miles northeast of Escalante as the crow flies. While the highway from Boulder to Escalante makes a kind of horseshoe south and then west, the Mail Trail takes a straight track across the slickrock desert and intersects Death Hollow about halfway. That was why we saw so many camp spots this area. Most people hiked into Death Hollow from the northeast and camped here before climbing up the other side toward Escalante or else hiking down the canyon we’d just come up.

The night was getting cold so we said goodnight and headed to our tents. Phil and I bundled up in dry clothes and crawled into our damp sleeping bags. They were freezing cold at first, but the synthetic fill made them warmer than I expected. I’m not going to say it was a comfortable night, but it was bearable and I think we got some sleep in there somewhere.

Morning was chilly and there was no breakfast for me and Phil. I made myself useful by pumping

and filtering water from the creek for ourselves and for Bill and Adrian. I still had the almost-full bottle of syrup from yesterday’s disastrous pancake breakfast and Phil had the brilliant idea of watering it down and drinking it for a calorie boost. I divided the syrup between our bottles, added water and shook it up. It was horribly sweet, but it gave us a nice energy kick to start the day and made me feel fuller and more satisfied than plain water. We finished our syrup drinks and I refilled our water bottles for the long, hot, waterless day ahead.

The goats had spent the morning browsing the lush growth along the creek and they seemed ready to be off. Everything had dried out during the night so the packs were not so heavy. We had our guides, Bill and Adrian, to lead us out of Death Hollow and back to Civilization. It was a wonderful stroke of luck that we’d found them because Phil and I would never have seen the faint trail winding up the steep canyon wall out of Death Hollow. Even if we’d somehow spotted the trail, we wouldn’t have known where it went and we would not have dared to leave the water. We’d have been forced to retrace our steps back down Death Hollow, which would have meant a whole extra day and night in the wilderness. As it was, we were already worried that the people who were expecting us in Escalante yesterday would needlessly call search and rescue.

In another stroke of luck, Phil checked our camera and it was working! The first couple of photos were a bit cloudy with a few random water spots, but it was functional and the focus improved with each photo. We were back in business!



The camera lives! This was the first useable photo in over 24 hours. You can see the trail leading out of Death Hollow winding over the rock in the background



Emerging from Death Hollow

The sun was hitting the top of the canyon as we began the steep climb out. Finn was in fine fettle but Sputnik was tired from yesterday and his feet were sore. He complained about having to start the day with a very steep climb on solid rock and looked like he wanted to find an alternate route. I had to put him on a leash until we got underway, and there was one fairly high rock ledge that he balked at. Phil and I had to physically haul him over it, but luckily with goats one can do this in a pinch. We soon made it to the top of the canyon and I marveled at the fact that for many years this was the mail route from Boulder to Escalante and was traveled twice weekly with a string of pack mules. Supposedly Death Hollow derives its name from an incident where a horse or mule tumbled to its death from the top of the canyon. If one looks closely at the slickrock in some of the steeper places, one can see the outline of mule shoes where they would slide down the rock until they struck a landing spot where their prints can still be seen to this day. There are also remnants of an old telegraph line



that was installed in the early 1900's. I was amazed at the determination of the folks for whom this difficult trek was part of their normal routine.

We were fortunate that the day was not hot. I hadn't realized when we were down in the canyon that the walls were around 800 feet high. The climb was a good way to start the day and really get our blood pumping! When we left the canyon we left the shade behind. I thought perhaps the trail would level out but although we never really lost or gained much elevation, we seemed to spend a lot of time going either up or down on solid rock. There were some long stretches where the trail was level but it was sandy, which made walking hard on our muscles even if it was easier on our feet. We took a break about two hours in and sat under some trees near the "Mamie Creek crossing," but there was no water in Mamie Creek. Even the potholes were dry. We contemplated taking a side trip to see Mamie Creek Natural Bridge, but no one particularly felt like taking an extra mile-and-a-half round-trip jaunt. Bill and Adrian were kind enough to share some of their trail mix with Phil and I and even with our goats before we set out again.

It was as we were crossing a high ridge of rock that Finn suddenly took off over the hill at a trot.



Finn's Watering Hole

He disappeared from view and I wondered what he was up to. It's not like a goat to go off on his own like that with no human ahead of him. I hurried after him and when I came over the ridge I saw him picking his way carefully down a steep slope toward a large pothole full of water. It was the size of a small pond and he must have smelled it from the other side of the ridge. He made his way to the only access point—a narrow, muddy slot in the rock—and took a long drink. Sputnik was suspicious of the muddy footing so I walked down with him and even filled a water bowl for him. Both goats got a good drink before we moved on.

The rest of the hike was fairly uneventful. There was a lovely moment when we crested a ridge and looked down into the emerald green Escalante valley, lying like a jewel beyond the sandstone cliffs. It looked so close and inviting, and it appeared as if the trail would be all downhill, but of course we encountered another very steep uphill climb or two. The end of the trail caused us some consternation. Flash floods earlier in the year had obliterated any pathway that might have once existed among the willows and sandy river bottom and we ended up retracing our steps several times. We were maddeningly close to civilization yet seemingly unable to access it. We ended up bushwhacking through tall weeds and crossing what appeared to be some farmer's unfenced back field before hiking out to the road via a private driveway.



Descending into the Green Escalante Valley

At that point, Bill and Adrian called their wives to drive over and pick them up while Phil and I trudged the rest of the way into Escalante. Finn was tired but Sputnik was miserable. It was obvious that his front feet were aching. His poor leg conformation had caught up to him. Our steep final descent on solid rock had not been kind to his feet and he was tiptoeing slowly along on the softest parts of the verge. I felt bad for him but there was not much I could do. I let him stop from time to time so he could sample the alfalfa that was growing wild along the road. He forgot about his sore feet as long as his mouth was full of fresh alfalfa. When we made it back to our trailer I bedded the boys down in deep straw and left them with a full bag of hay and plenty of fresh water and water with Gatorade in it. I gave Sputnik some Ibuprofen for his feet. Phil and I rested our own feet for a short while and then we headed straight off in search of a good BBQ rib dinner. It was one of the best meals I've ever had.

It would have been delicious on any night, but as they say, hunger is the best spice.

In reading about Death Hollow afterwards

I discovered that every description warned hikers of thick groves of head-high poison ivy along the entire route. I remarked to Phil that it was lucky we had not brushed into any. Two weeks later, however, I broke out in a mysterious rash in my nether regions. It took a couple of days for me to figure out why I was so itchy and then I remembered... late at night after we found Bill and Adrian, I'd snuck off into the brush for a quick pee. It turned into a bit more than that and I ended up scrambling for leaves in the dark. Never do that! Use a stick, a piece of bark, or a rock if you have to, but don't ever feel around in blind darkness for leaves to wipe with!

A couple of days later Phil broke out in small random spots all over his body, including in places that had been covered by his clothes. We didn't realize that a poison ivy rash can appear so long after exposure, nor that it can pop out in random areas that didn't touch it. We were very lucky. I have never lived in a place where poison ivy grows so I'd never learned to identify it. After looking at pictures online I realized we had been walking through that stuff all day with faces, arms, and legs exposed. Even so, I only got a small localized rash and Phil got a small dispersed one long after we'd ended our trip and could nurse ourselves happily at home. Had we broken out badly on the trail it would have been a nightmare. Word to the wise: learn to identify poison ivy even if it is not native to your area. You never know when you might hike someplace where it lives!

Afterwards Phil and I decided that getting lost in Death Hollow was one of the greatest adventures we'd ever had. Although there were many incidents which could easily have become full-out disasters, nothing spiraled out of control or required professional intervention so we were able to happily call it a grand outing full of breathtaking sights, unexpected surprises, and fantastic memories.



Sputnik, Tired but Victorious

We Love Our Goats... Grrrrrr

We do, don't we? Love our boys? But am I the only one that has moments where I am clenching my jaw so hard that my teeth are near the point of cracking?

Case in point:

I am presently relocating to a small town in New Mexico. I fortunately am blessed with a facility here that has a pen that has been specifically lined with cattle panels so that my goats can be penned without the possibility of them doing any unapproved exploring... as they did on one

occasion when I was relying on the little chain that keeps the gate closed. They took maybe 5-10 minutes to figure that one out, went wandering, girdled one of the CG



First Tarp, Now Junkyard Material

owner's trees, thusly leaving me \$50 poorer.

Nevertheless, the ability to have a pen to put them in whilst I do my own exploring for somewhere to live other than my 25' trailer is a genuine blessing.

However: said pen has no cover, which means that in case of rain, which it is doing quite regularly in the PM these monsoon days, I am forced to run over to their pen, haul them over to one of the other pens, one with a cover, tie them up, and hang out with them until the PM thunderstorm runs out of energy.

HA! But I already had that one figured out. I brought with me a tarp, maybe 12x15, put it up, and voila! Goat rain protection, which it wasn't doing when I put it up. And goat mentality says, 'if it is raining, run under the tarp!' However, goat mentality also says, 'if it isn't raining, do your best to bring this tarp intruder to its knees'. Talk about taking a knee.

In other words, by the time I returned for the evening feeding, said tarp had been reduced to rubble.

My jaw was clenching, my teeth were in danger of cracking, and I was reading to them, loudly, the riot act. "Alright you smart guys, when it rains? ENJOY being wet!!"

Of course they called my bluff. It rained, they began squawking, I went running, and hauled them one by one

over where there is cover. They stood there giving me that look, "HA! We knew you didn't mean it." I think I told them to shut up!

So on went the thinking cap, and I began to think about what I could do in order to get them a TALL cover, one that they couldn't get their little ruminant teeth into. Undoubtedly the main caveat here is that I cannot be drilling into the CG owner's buildings and other infrastructure in order to put this up, so it kind of kind of is necessary to build it with a skyhook.

I got some 2x4s, another tarp (I'm now into tarps to the tune of over \$50), and I constructed a Rube Goldberg arrangement that is, I think; 1) high enough to be beyond the reach of my tallest troublemaker, and 2) strong enough to withstand the evening rain showers with their attendant winds.

The goat lessons just keep coming, don't they? I'm into this now well over 12 years.



This setup has now been improved with a bigger, more functional, tarp



Sometimes ya gotta get up there however ya can!

And clearly this is one that should have been in the Land Use section of this periodical. One more place that will be singing 'Throw the goat bums out'. An old, familiar and maddening tune.



Bighorn Sheep Will Return to Tendoy Mountains, MT

by: [Kristen A. Schmitt](#), August 25, 2020

<https://www.gohunt.com/read/news/bighorn-sheep-to-return-to-tendoy-mountains#gs.fi5hu9>

Bighorn sheep will return to the Tendoy Mountains in **Montana**. Once native to the mountain range, in 2015, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (Montana FWP) offered hunters the chance at over 320 over-the-counter permits to help remove the diseased herd completely. While many were successful, the rest of the herd was eliminated via helicopter by biologists in order to wipe the Tendoy's free of disease, [The Independent Record](#) reports.

Now? The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has approved Montana FWP's plan to transplant bighorn sheep from Wild Horse Island on Flathead Lake to re-establish bighorn sheep in the southwest mountain range. The effort has garnered support from the Wild Sheep Foundation, Montana Wild Sheep Foundation and Montana Woolgrowers Association. Both of the sheep foundations have also contributed funds toward the **relocation** effort.

Goats Gone Wild: Hooved Animal Ambushes Squad Car, Eats Sheriff Deputy's Paperwork

by [Mandatory Editors](#) Sep 9th, 2020

<https://www.mandatory.com/fun/1554989-goats-gone-wild-hooved-animal-ambushes-squad-car-eats-sheriff-deputy-paperwork>

Law enforcement officers have to put with a lot of bull – but they don't usually have to battle **livestock** while on patrol. Until now.

A Georgia **sheriff's deputy** recently went to serve civil papers to a resident of Douglas County. She left the door of her squad car open in case she encountered "vicious dogs" and needed to retreat quickly, as she had in the past. This time, however, when she returned to her cruiser, there was a **goat** in the front seat devouring her paperwork! But that's not all: after eating its fill of forms and exiting the vehicle, the hooved animal head-butted the deputy in the knees, knocking her down. Luckily, she was unharmed, but the suspect hooved it down the road and remains at large.

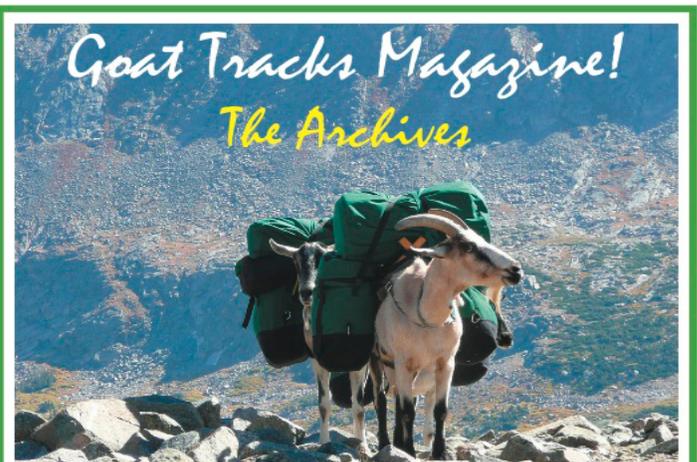


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In my frequent forays into the files that make up the GT Archives, I have come to the conclusion that the only reason that everyone doesn't have a copy of this information is that they just don't realize how completely entertaining lots of this stuff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



[Cargo panniers]



Saddles



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The following is a recounting of a great goatpacking trip by NAPgA's current President, Curtis King, and past President, Charlie Jennings. I asked them both to write up a recounting of the trip in order to get a sense of the differing perspectives of both these goatpackers. And so here it is.

Packing with the President's?

by Curtis King

Charlie said we were going where? To Bernard Lake? Why that one? Because Larry Robinson, another of NAPgA's past Presidents, had noted the trout fishing there is phenomenal and the scenery around the lake is breathtaking. What started out was a plan for a trio of NAPgA presidents both past and present to do some goat packing together and take in some extraordinary fishing for cutthroat trout.

Our launch date was Monday August 10th. This would mean that we would most likely have the lake to ourselves considering that this was an OFF-TRAIL hike with nothing to guide us into this= [[]] jku fcggbhvjv hidden pocket lake except for the GPS waypoints provided by former NAPgA President Larry Robinson.

This lake is nestled in a hidden pocket in Idaho's Bear Valley, between two large mountain caps that are 8000+ feet at their tops.

Bernard Lake is on the map located right on the border of the Salmon-Challis and the Boise National Forests, a relatively short drive from Stanley, Idaho. Elk Creek, which becomes Bear Valley Creek and eventually, at the 'Big Hole' combines with Marsh Creek to become the Main Salmon River, Idaho's 'River of No Return'. This creek could be seen on both sides of the gravel road during the lazy drive into the hidden cabin just off highway 21 out of Boise. Larry has hiked into this lake on a number of occasions and had seen trout up to 20 inches come out of the exceptionally productive lake.

About a week or so before the launch, Charlie called me and said that Larry wouldn't be able to join us as he was right in the middle of moving from Boise Idaho to his new home in New Mexico. He had definitely wanted to go with us but due to the events surrounding the closing of his property, and the resultant move, it just wasn't possible. Anyone who knows anything about Larry, would know that it had to be something pretty serious to keep him out of the woods.☺ However, Charlie told

me that he had received all the GPS Waypoints from Larry and that we were going to follow his footsteps into the lake... as well as his goat tracks.

Larry had suggested that Charlie and I meet at the Albertsons parking lot in Boise the gateway to Highway 21. Charlie was coming from Utah at the south and I was driving from my home in eastern Washington from the north. Joining us on the trip was David Jeppesen who is Charlie's good friend and neighbor. David (Dave) works for the BLM and is an avid outdoorsman and trout fisherman. After a quick stop at Cabela's for some fishing licenses and some addition gear this trio departs with ten-pack goats and high hopes for a great hiking and fishing adventure. Larry was with us in spirit, in the map that Charlie gave me along with the dotted line of waypoints leading from the cabin to the lake.



After a three-hour drive, "The Cabin" was a welcome

site. It served as the parking lot and the launch point. The goats were roaming freely getting a smorgasbord of vegetation, so Charlie brought out his Traeger Smoker and plugged it into the battery of his truck. We ate like "Kings" that night. The Tri-tip was smoked perfectly and my Blue Heeler "Dog" would not stop drooling until I gave her a bite.

Up with the sun and after a lazy breakfast we have all ten packers loaded with enough



equipment and food to feed an army for a week. "Well, let's see what kind of a goose chase Larry has for us here," says Dave as we head out towards the first waypoint. Crossing a stream, we head northbound up an off-trail routing on our way through downed timber that had gone through a burn that we estimated occurred about five years ago. The next three hours was mostly up hill, leap frogging from one waypoint to the next, picking apart



the landscape and looking for the best route. The goats packed beautifully crossing deadfall and negotiating a maze of downed timber and bolder fields.

About three hours later we are picking apart the last waypoints. We have literally stepped on every one of Larry's indicated waypoints that made a straight line over the ridge from the cabin and then an L shape left turn between the two mountain caps. Fifteen or twenty minutes up the steep hillside and through

some timber I can almost smell the water. Charlie is looking intently into his GPS unit and says "That lake is going to be about three hundred yards right over there". I finally see the sun's reflection through the trees coming off the blue water. There it was, hidden in plain sight, Bernard Lake. Our pace picked up as we were thirsty and ready to get these boys unloaded. The only campsite was situated at the north end of the lake and combined with a breathtaking beach. This campsite was pristine complete with a flat rock fire ring pit and several chairs made of driftwood and flat rock shale. We settle into our new home and hydrated from the crystal-clear lake. I jumped in head first to cool off. It was warm that day and the Lake was beyond refreshing.



Within the hour we have tents up and Dave strings his jungle style hammock into some trees that gives him a great view of the lake. We had some of the best soft shell tacos that night with everything for toppings. Charlie's goats had packed in enough food for five people. Dave wasted no time after dinner to

get at catching some of the beautiful trout that were popping out of the water like popcorn all around the lake. Wonderfully, we had the lake to ourselves. It was simply a small piece of paradise.

Day two was nothing but rest, relaxation and yes,



trout fishing. It was one of those places that you just didn't want to leave until your cup was

full. We caught lots of Cutthroat trout and several of them close to 18 inches made it into our frying pan that evening. We ate very well. Sitting in camp that night we shared lots of stories surrounded by packgoats chewing their cud and looking very content. Larry was not physically with us, but from our conversations I felt like he was. Charlie kept saying "Ya-know for a guy that's almost 80 years old that man can really cover some ground".

It was Larry's waypoints that got us in there and it was the same route that got us back out. So why do we do it? For the love of the great outdoors, adventure, and yes, goatpacking. My goatpacking adventure with the NAPgA Presidents was completed and the eight-hour drive home gave me lots of time to reflect. I texted Charlie when I got home. He had said that Larry was going to stop by and see him on his way back to New Mexico after a brief Boise trip, and I probed him to drag a few



Charlie --- Curtis

more Idaho hot spot fishing lakes out of him. Before we ended the conversation I said to Charlie "Let's do another trip next year only this time lets actually bring Larry!"

"Long Live The Pack Goat"

Curtis King

President, North American Packgoat Association

Photo courtesy David Jeppesen, Willard UT.

Bernard Lake August 2020

by Charlie Jennings

Earlier this year, I had asked Larry Robinson about fishing some of the lakes in Idaho. He mentioned Bernard Lake, an isolated lake that is located in the Frank Church Wilderness. Larry had been there close to a dozen times on different approaches, the shortest route being off-trail and through a bunch of deadfall. For three miles. Larry mentioned that each mile felt like two or three due to the deadfall. I got to experience that first-hand, and can vouch for his accurate description.



Charlie, amongst a 'gaggle' of goats :-)

We arrived the evening before in order to acclimate to the elevation and to give the goats a rest from the hours of traveling in a trailer. Coming up from Boise, the two-lane road is long and windy. Lots of switchbacks. The trailhead is situated in a beautiful place, with a couple of old cabins nearby. We smoked some beef tri-tip on the 12v pellet smoker and retired for the night. Somewhat surprisingly, it froze in the night, as there was ice on everything in the morning. We took our sweet time getting ready as the mileage we were required to hike didn't seem much. Boy, did I ever under-estimate this trip. We ended up finally hitting the trail around 11am. Our first mile required climbing about 800 feet with virtually no shade, as this was a burn area. The sun beating down on us was taking its toll on me, and I wasn't sure if I was going to make it. Thanks to the encouragement and patience of Dave Jeppesen



Up through the snags



Charlie, saying a quick thank you prayer for a level spot!

and Curtis King, I took it one step at a time and took numerous rest breaks. I am embarrassed to state this, but it took us six hours to make it to the lake. The deadfall combined with the topography was like a three-mile obstacle course that I had underestimated. How Larry was able to day hike in AND come out in one day as a 79-year-old is beyond my comprehension.

Bernard Lake is tucked away in a beautiful cirque. It might be hard to locate if one is not using maps and a GPS. But once you hike up and over the final saddle to the lake, there it is! The campsite is shady and beautiful. The lake is deep with beautiful blue, clear water. And has an abundance of cutthroat trout!

We stayed for two nights and hiked out on the third day, making the trip out in three hours. Dave noticed lots of areas where elk had bedded down, and he even spotted a cow elk on the way in. Larry mentioned to us that there were three wolf packs in the area. Fortunately we didn't see or hear any of them.

I'd like to go back to Bernard Lake. But it taught me quite a few lessons. I've been told about the "laboratory of the outdoors". Nature can teach us lessons and can be very unforgiving.

- #1-Get in better shape and don't ever underestimate the terrain.
- #2-Lose weight if you need to so that you're not having those extra pounds as you're stepping over



*Charlie & friend
Dave Jeppesen*

deadfall for miles. I lost 10 lbs on this trip and have kept it off. [GT Ed. -- *I would add as well, don't ever think that hiking off-trail doesn't take significantly more energy. Until you've done it, you will never completely understand. Add a burn area, especially an old burn, and your energy output goes literally off the charts. One time when I day hiked into Bernard, by the time I got back out I was having leg muscle spasms that literally made it impossible to get back into my truck.*]

A big thanks to Larry for his sharing of waypoints that helped in our navigating to Bernard Lake. Also a big thanks to Curtis King and Dave Jeppesen for their patience and for their cheery nature during the trip. Also a special thanks to my four-legged friends, who each did fabulously well going in and out over all the deadfall.

Ancient genome analyses reveal mosaic pattern of goat domestication thousands of years ago

By Trinity College Dublin, JULY 5, 2018

<https://phys.org/news/2018-07-ancient-genome-analyses-reveal-mosaic.html>

An international team of scientists, led by geneticists from Trinity



College Dublin, have sequenced the genomes from ancient goat bones from areas in the Fertile Crescent where goats were first domesticated around 8,500 BC. They reveal a 10,000-year history of local farmer practices featuring genetic exchange both with the wild and among domesticated herds, and selection by early farmers.

This genetic data—including 83 mitochondrial sequences and whole genome data from 51 goats—is published today by Ph.D. Researcher in Genetics, Kevin Daly, and colleagues, in leading international journal *Science*.

One of our first domesticates and a source of meat, milk and hides, goats now number almost a billion animals. They have been a partner animal since c. 8,500 BC. The earliest evidence for domestic goats occurs in the Fertile Crescent region of Southwest Asia, where crop farming and animal herding began. Before herding, local hunters targeted wild goats—also known as bezoar—and this local practice eventually became the basis of goat management and livestock keeping.

However, reading the past from examining modern genetics 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. 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,” said Professor of Population Genetics and ERC Advanced Investigator at Trinity College Dublin, Dan Bradley, who led the project.

Using genetic data from over 80 ancient wild and domestic goats, the group has charted the initial patterns of domestication, demonstrating a surprising degree of genetic differentiation between goats across the Fertile Crescent and the surrounding regions.

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

Using ancient samples, the group was able to analyse the genetic diversity of different goat populations back in time and reconstruct the history of early domesticates.

Domestic animals have changed human society and humans have also moulded livestock into hundreds of different types and breeds—this study has the earliest genetic discovery yet of this process. It seems that, like modern breeders, ancient farmers were interested in animal appearance.

Ph.D. Researcher at Trinity, and first author of the paper, Kevin Daly, said: “Whole genome sequences from the past allowed us directly analyse some of the earliest goat herds. We found evidence that at least as far back as 8,000 years ago herders were interested in or valued the coat colour of their animals, based on selection signals at pigmentation genes.” Furthermore, distinct but parallel patterns of this selection were observed in different early herds, suggesting this was a repeated phenomenon.

There are also indications that these early animals had been selected for liver enzymes that gave better tolerance to new toxins, possibly from fungus growing on fodder, and also production traits such as fertility and size.

USDA changes sheep, goat scrapie ID requirements

https://www.heraldextra.com/sanpete-county/news/usda-changes-sheep-goat-scrapie-id-requirements/article_f8065247-2205-58cd-92a0-5782d921141a.html

SALT LAKE CITY — U.S. Department of Agriculture — Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has completed a standards update that officials believe will be more efficient in disease eradication and more consistent in the identification (ID) and record-keeping requirements for sheep and goats.

“USDA-APHIS’s National Scrapie Eradication Program has made great strides toward disease freedom since its inception in 2002, largely as a result of effective slaughter surveillance,” said Dr. Barry Pittman, State Veterinarian at the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food. Earlier this year, the final rule to update program regulations was published in the Federal Register.

Scrapie is a fatal, degenerative disease affecting the central nervous system of sheep and goats. Two to five years after infection, affected animals will often begin to show visible signs such as intense rubbing, incoordination that progresses to an inability to stand, and death.

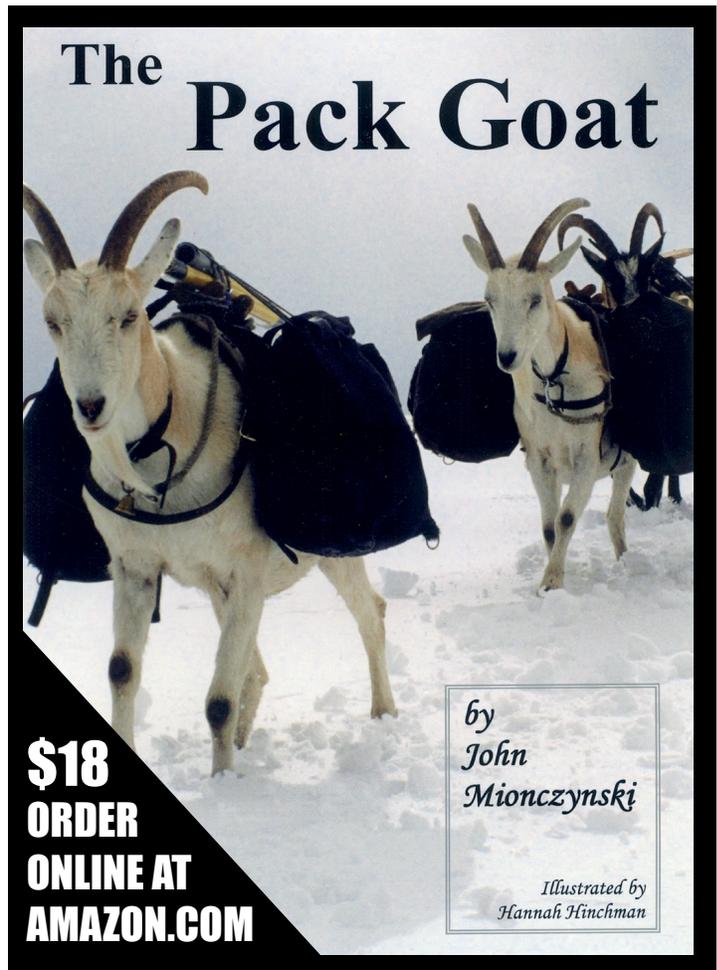
Other signs may include head tremors, head pressing or “star gazing,” significant weight loss with no decrease in appetite, and wool pulling. Additional signs in affected goats may include difficulty milking and premature kidding. Since slaughter surveillance started in 2003, the percent of cull sheep found positive at slaughter has decreased 99 percent.

However, Pittman cautions that in order to declare the United States “scrapie-free,” there must be evidence of testing in all sheep and goat populations.

The new rules state that sheep and goats must have official ear tags when moving off their premises of origin. The main exception is castrated sheep and goats, under 18 months of age or sheep and goats of any age, shipped directly to a slaughter establishment or a federally-approved market that has agreed to apply official ear tags.

Livestock markets may charge a fee to apply official identification. There are also exceptions for the use of registration tattoos, flock ID tattoos, and implants/microchips as official ID when the animals are not in slaughter channels or moving through livestock markets.

Currently, APHIS will provide up to 80 plastic flock ID tags, free-of-charge, to producers who have not received free tags from APHIS in the past. APHIS will discontinue the availability of no-cost metal tags for producers. Dealers and markets may continue to receive metal serial tags at no cost.



The Pack Goat

by *John Mionczynski*

Illustrated by *Hannah Hinckman*

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The no-cost metal tags previously provided to producers will be phased out by Summer 2019, once the currently obligated funding is expended. During the phase-out, APHIS will continue to provide, upon request, up to 100 serial metal tags free of charge to producers (either regular orange metal serial tags or blue ‘slaughter-only’ metal serial tags) who haven’t received APHIS-provided tags within the previous 24 months.

To request these official sheep and goat tags, a flock/premises ID or both, call (866) USDA-TAG (866-873-2824). If you have received tags before or need more tags or a different type of tag, you can purchase your own official tags from an approved tag manufacturer, once you have a flock ID.

For complete information regarding sheep and goat identification requirements, including specific exceptions to this rule for certain classes of animals and a listing of USDA-approved tag manufacturers, please visit: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/sheep-and-goat-health/scrapie-tags>

I've had this one in my 'ready' file for some time now, but since I am now here in NM right on top of Whitewater Creek, it seemed to me like now was the time to put it to print. Sadly, as a part of my research, I have discovered that Dutch Salmon passed on the 10th of March, 2019. Due to his active involvement in many organizations and causes, I am certain that he will be acutely missed.

Goat Packing for Wild Trout in Whitewater Creek

By [Dutch Salmon](#), SouthernNewMexico.com, Last updated on Wednesday, January 01, 2003



Getting ready to pack up the trailhead. Photo by Cherie Salmon

Getting ready to pack up the trailhead. Photo by Cherie Salmon

What most people know about Whitewater Creek is The Catwalk. Go there most any day in good weather and there will be a half dozen cars or more in the parking lot, and a commensurate number of people hiking The Catwalk [flies] over the water as the creek comes down the canyon.

The [Catwalk](#) is western New Mexico's main tourist attraction. It has a ton of history, and actually had to be rebuilt after a 2013 flood wiped the original Catwalk off the map. Located in Glenwood, NM

But it isn't hard to escape the crowds. A mile or so up the canyon The Catwalk ends and crossing the creek means getting your feet wet. And beyond a mile, most of the day hikers are gone from any trail and the remnant wilderness trekkers have the place to themselves.

So when we got to the confluence where the South Fork of Whitewater Creek meets the main stem it felt like wilderness, even though it was Easter weekend and we were just a few miles upstream from the parking lot. A couple of backpackers had the

same idea we did, and one horse packer was camped out along the South Fork with a party, but mostly it was just me and Steve Siegfried and a nice couple from New Hampshire named Porter who had hired us to show them a slice of the **Gila Wilderness**.

You can't get pack stock up The Catwalk, not even pack goats, so we had come into the confluence by the Gold Dust Trail. This is a pretty rough trail of about five miles with lots of ups and downs, and mostly on a south-facing slope where the sun can jerk you down in a hurry and make you wish you'd brought more water. Plus, this was the first good hike of the season for all of us; after six

months you forget how much work it is to hike rough country with a pack on your back.

But the goats were carrying a measure of everyone's load and we got to the creek without anybody complaining much. The big vistas off the trail were great coming in and the folks from New Hampshire seemed to like the country. We got to the confluence with plenty of light left to set up camp.

The next day was breezy and cool, and we moved up the South Fork to a more remote campsite. We passed the horse packer's camp along the way, and his stock and my goats trembled all over at the site of one another. But nobody had any wrecks.

Hour by hour, the wind picked up the pace, it got cloudy and cold, and it was the kind of day when you either lie in your sleeping bag to keep warm, or keep moving. Nobody was inclined to waste the day so after we put the camp up we got out the fishing rods and went upstream for trout.

It's a lovely canyon, the South Fork, narrow and wooded with pines and oaks, and the water comes hopping down the falls in white rushes. And it seems there are always plenty of trout. Most are small. But the nice thing is they were born and raised here, and with persistence, a bit of skill and a measure of luck, you can catch some keepers for supper.

We leapfrogged up and over the flow, sampling pools and eddies and swift chutes. Tom Porter worked his lightweight spinning rod. Anita Porter and I shared another spinning rod, and Steve somehow talked me out of my fly rod.

The fish, most of them, were in the swift chutes, and they fell to Pistol Petes, Mepps spinners, and black gnats. More than a dozen were caught but only six were in the 8- to 10-inch range where you felt like they were big enough to keep. Although brook trout are rumored to haunt the South Fork's upper reaches, these were all rainbows or rainbow/Gila trout hybrids.

Back at camp, the sun went down. It got real cold, and a full moon was slowly rising. We got the campfire and the camp stove both going a good flame.

Tom cooked the trout New Hampshire style: slowly, expertly, and fried in bacon grease. We ate them as an appetizer while Steve and I worked on the spaghetti and Anita prepared the bread with butter and garlic.

Bundled now against the chill and seated close to the fire, we all ate till we were drummed out.

Afterward, we laced the coffee with brandy. As the fire crackled, flamed and glowed, war stories emanating from

The [Gold Dust Trail](#) mentioned here by Dutch is one of this area's best maintained and prettiest trails. The views from it are stunning.

our respective occupations were told. I talked books and outfitting, Steve talked writing and outfitting, and Tom, a logger by trade, had some great lumberjack tales from the north woods.

The merits and demerits of New Hampshire and New Mexico were discussed, too; we all agreed each state was a good one as long as you stayed away from the cities.

Our last day dawned clear and warming nicely, and the wind was down. Nobody really wanted to leave, but it's hard to operate without a schedule these days, even in the wilderness.

By noon, our big, late breakfast of bacon and pancakes was done, the camp was cleaned up, and the goats and people were packed. We split at the confluence; I would take the goats back out the Gold Dust Trail while Steve would lead the Porters down Whitewater Creek so they could see the Catwalk.

The goats and I got plenty warm climbing out of the canyon up that south-facing slope. There was lots of sun and no wind, and halfway up we were puffing and looking for shade, but there wasn't any. We took our time and I shared my water with the team, and when we topped out we took a good break and enjoyed the view. A breeze came up about then, too, and that always helps.

Halfway to the trail head we crossed a little stream and I filled my hat with water several times and poured it over the heads of two goats and then myself. From then on it was plain sailing.

Not far from the truck I paused at a high spot and looked down into Whitewater Creek a thousand feet below. Steve and Tom and Anita were down there somewhere, fishing their way along, not far from the Catwalk picnic grounds.

The Catwalk parking lot was in plain view and there must have been a dozen cars there on this holiday weekend. Few if any of the people who drove them would ever go up to the confluence or beyond, never knowing what they were missing.



From the Gold Dust Trail, Catwalk below in Canyon



Sunset on the Gold Dust Trail, Looking back to the TH & Whitewater Mesa

Meet Geronimo Jack: Fort Polk's goat defender

By STARS AND STRIPES, Published: July 5, 2020

<https://www.stripes.com/news/us/meet-geronimo-jack-fort-polk-s-goat-defender-1.636407>



Geronimo Jack, an Anatolian Shepherd, watches over the Boer goats at the Joint Readiness Training Center and Fort Polk's farm.

Other guards have a tendency to go AWOL, but Geronimo Jack has been patrolling the perimeter and slaying enemy invaders in his part of an Army base for years without fail.

The Anatolian Shepherd dog keeps watch over the animals on the operations group farm at Fort

Polk's Joint Readiness Training Center, the Army said last month. The animals bring added realism to the Louisiana base's mock villages, where soldiers train ahead of deployments.

Farm manager Dennis Ansetta enlisted Jack's help when he was a pup in August 2012, after a previous pair of guard dogs began deserting their post under some troops' bad influence, the Army said in a statement.

"We originally had a couple of Pyrenees to act as guard dogs for us," Ansetta said. "But over time, the rotational soldiers would stop by and feed them people food, and they started getting off the farm and hanging out by the Pizza Hut looking for handouts."

Ansetta took the Pyrenean mountain dogs to live on another farm — not a euphemism. But that left the

Army's livestock unguarded and a coyote quickly swept in, killing a Boer goat on each of five consecutive nighttime raids.

"I knew something had to be done," Ansetta said.

He found a seller in east Texas offering an Anatolian Shepherd for \$125 — reduced to \$100 after he found out it was for Fort Polk — and brought the pup to base for his first night alone at the farm. It was a good investment.

"The next morning when I came in, I found a dead coyote within the fence," he said. "Jack was only six months old, but he was already tough enough to take out a coyote."

Since then, the farm has not lost a goat to any predator, he said. The farm also has donkeys, geese and chickens, but Jack apparently identifies most closely with the goats.

"He grew up with them and has been around them all his life," Ansetta said. "I've tried to feed him in a separate area, but he won't have anything to do with that. He wants his food placed at his spot — the end of the goats' feed trough."

The dog has earned the moniker Geronimo Jack, after the nickname given to the 509th Parachute Infantry Regiment, which runs the Joint Readiness Training Center's operations group.

Wiping out scrapie in goats, the genetic way

Posted on **January 17, 2020** by **Doug Powell**

<https://www.barfblog.com/2020/01/wiping-out-scrapie-in-goats-the-genetic-way/>

More consumers are developing a taste for goat cheese, milk, and meat as they become aware of the high protein and great taste of these products. While U.S. goat producers are enjoying this steady trend, they remain focused on keeping their animals healthy, especially from scrapie—a fatal brain disease that affects goats and sheep.

"The goat industry is one of the fastest growing animal industries in agriculture," says **Stephen White**, an Agricultural Research Service (ARS)



geneticist. "Not too many years ago, there were only a few hundred thousand goats in the country." But in January 2018, goats and kids totaled 2.62 million head. Meat and dairy are the biggest markets, followed by mohair, but goats serve in other unique capacities, says ARS veterinary medical officer **David Schneider**. Goats are being used to manage weedy areas along highways, get rid of kudzu in the Southeast, and even mow lawns.

They're also used as pack animals to carry supplies through rugged areas.

For any of these businesses, a single outbreak of scrapie could be devastating.

There is no cure or treatment for scrapie, which is in the same family—transmissible spongiform encephalopathies (TSEs) or prion diseases—as mad cow disease. TSEs are rare degenerative brain disorders characterized by tiny holes that give the brain a "spongy" appearance.

Most often scrapie is transmitted through birth fluids to other goats and sheep, and it can remain infectious in the environment for many years. It was first recognized in sheep in Great Britain and other European countries more than 250 years ago and was first diagnosed in U.S. sheep in 1947 in a Michigan flock.

All animals that get scrapie die. But there is good news from ARS. White and Schneider, who both work at ARS's **Animal Disease Research Unit** in Pullman, Washington, are the first to demonstrate by infectious disease challenge that goats with the S146 allele (a different form of a gene) are less susceptible to scrapie over a usual goat lifetime. They also tested the K222 allele in goats. Their research shows that goats with one copy of either the S146 or K222 allele did not develop scrapie after being challenged with infection at birth. The study was published in **The Veterinary Journal** in 2018.

"Commercial goats raised for either meat or milk age out of herd participation as milkers, dams of commercial offspring, or as sires by around 6 years of age," White says. In this ongoing ARS research, goats with the resistance alleles have lived beyond this commercial lifetime—up to 7½ years—with no clinical disease and without getting sick.

The only countries considered to be scrapie free are Australia and New Zealand. Currently, if one goat is diagnosed with scrapie on a U.S. farm, all goats are quarantined for life or euthanized. "You couldn't restock your operation with any susceptible animal," White says. "The farmer's operation would be over."

This research is good news for both goat and sheep producers because it could help with eradication efforts. Before U.S. producers can take advantage of import and export markets, scrapie must be eradicated from the United States and meet the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) criteria for disease freedom.

News from the North American Packgoat Assn

From the NAPgA President

8/18/20, A message from Curtis King.

Yes, I'm feeling a little guilty about the delayed response for this letter and getting a note out to all of you for the upcoming newsletter. I have been bitten by a terrible disease the last few weeks otherwise known as "Packgoat Fever". My recent goat packing trips to the Wenaha River in eastern Oregon for Bull Trout fishing and a recent trip to the Frank Church Wilderness in central Idaho with previous President Charles Jennings for lake trout fishing is just what the therapy doctor ordered.

I missed seeing most of you at the June 2020 Rendezvous set for Joseph Oregon that was canceled due to COVID. However, we truly felt your presence and your support during our recent online Livestream and virtual Auction event. This is the first time that NAPgA has ever tried this type of a fundraiser project and you - our NAPgA members hit one out of the park with the bases loaded. We raised over \$6000.00 dollars during our June-July virtual auction. With so much support from our members we had a plethora of items and services up for bid. From saddles to hay, taxidermy, wildlife art, custom panniers and everything in between, there was something for everyone.

I want to personally say a very heart felt "Thank You" to everyone who donated and participated in our auction event to help make this possible. We could not do this without your continued support. I would also like to thank all of our NAPgA Board members a very special thank you to our Board Secretary, Desarae Stark, for spearheading this very successful fundraising project.

NAPgA continues to work to secure your rights to use and recreate with pack goats on public lands. We are currently responding with Objections to the proposed language for the testing protocol of our pack goats for the Custer Gallatin National Forest, Montana. Other projects include preparing an official response to WAFWA, The Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies in response to their document on Bighorn sheep.

This document continues to pop up in all the forest plans as their reasoning for wanting to lump our pack goats in with wool sheep to prevent disease transmission to Bighorn sheep. The document has nothing to do with pack goats. We will continue to keep our members posted on these projects.

With the summer closing in a few weeks, and early season hunting starting soon I want to encourage all of you to enjoy your Packers to the fullest. Get out and do some social distancing with the four leggers and enjoy the great outdoors.

In closing we also want to encourage all of our members to strictly follow and practice NAPgA's Best Management Practices. Please help spread the word and educate, mentor, and encourage those who are new to goat packing.

Thank you everyone for your continued support. Till we meet again.

"Long Live The Packgoat"

Curtis King

President, North American Packgoat Association



Charlie Jennings - Curtis King

In south central Idaho getting in some killer fishing.



North American Packgoat Association

Ancient hanky panky gave modern goats their iron stomachs

By [Elizabeth Pennisi](#), May. 20, 2020

<https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/05/ancient-hanky-panky-gave-modern-goats-their-iron-stomachs>



Goats are one tough breed, surviving Atlantic Ocean crossings with Christopher Columbus and the *Mayflower's*

pilgrims—and tolerating everyday perils from drought to parasites. Now, research has uncovered the origins of their hardiness: Some ancient hanky panky with a wild goat cousin gave the domesticated species (*Capra aegagrus hircus*) a gene that protects against parasitic worm infections. That gene joined others to help make goats among the first animals to be domesticated.

The finding underscores the importance of interbreeding with wild populations in the early days of domestication, says Melinda Zeder, an emeritus anthropological archaeologist at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, who was not involved with the work. "It gives us a lesson about how domesticated crops and livestock were able to disperse as widely as they did."

Many researchers consider goats to be the **first animals domesticated**—11,000 years ago in the ancient Fertile Crescent. Today, they supply more of the world's milk than all the dairy cows combined. Researchers know humans first corralled the domestic goat's wild ancestor, most likely a bezoar (*C. aegagrus*) in **both Turkey and Iran**, but exactly what transpired between then and now has been a mystery.

Jiang Yu, an animal geneticist at Northwest A&F University, and an international team sequenced the genomes of 88 domestic goats from around the world, six wild goat species, and four goat fossils. They compared their data with previously gathered genomic information about 131 other domesticated, wild, and ancient goats to determine which parts of the goat genome were important to domestication.

One gene, *MUC6*, seemed particularly important. Today, almost every domestic goat has a version of the *MUC6* gene that **came from a wild goat called the West Caucasian tur**, Jiang and colleagues report today in *Science Advances*. Working backward, the team calculated that the tur version of this *MUC6* gene entered the goat genome 7200 years ago, likely through interbreeding.

The *MUC6* gene codes for a protein found in the lining of the gut. In other animals, it is part of the immune defense system. To see whether it could protect against parasites,

the researchers checked the stools of goats carrying either the tur version of *MUC6* or another version found in a few domestic goats for nematode worm eggs. There were far fewer eggs in the stool of the goats with the tur version, suggesting that version is protective, the researchers report.

It makes sense that the tur version of this gene would better fight parasites, Jiang says. The tur lives near the coast of the Black Sea, where the warm, wet climate likely fostered more pathogens than goats' original home in the drier regions of southwest Asia.

Some researchers think the most important traits for domestication have to do with physical appearance or economically valuable qualities such as milk production. But this study suggests breeding livestock that could survive in crowded conditions—where diseases are more likely—was more critical in the early years, Jiang says. Because of the advantage provided by the tur version of *MUC6*, it spread to 60% of the domesticated goats within 1000 years—a speed of spread that previously had been "unimaginable," Jiang notes. "It proved the extreme desire of people to acquire healthy animals."

In addition to *MUC6*, the team found other genes in domestic goats that came from other wild goats about the same time 7200 years ago. These genes—possibly linked to behavior—may have made the goats more docile, Jiang says. But the researchers need to test that idea.

The paper shows domestication was a dynamic process with genes from other species being gained and lost through the millennia, Zeder says. "It's not a 'one and done,'" she explains. "The ability to have the uptake of new genes better enabled them to adapt."

Spirited bunch of Bagot goat kids get ready for summer by the sea on Norfolk cliffs

Stuart Anderson, stuart.anderson@archant.co.uk

PUBLISHED: March 2019



Mark Frosdick, North Norfolk District Council Environment Officer at Wiveton Hall

They originally came to these shores with crusaders returning from conquests in the Middle East.

And the Bagot goats that have become a regular feature on Cromer's cliffs over the summer months have conquered plenty of hearts.

This year's flock will be bigger than ever following the birth of 12 kids - six billies and six nannies - at their current home of Wiveton Hall.

Mark Frosdick, animal control officer at North Norfolk District Council, which bought the flock for breeding

Cont. Pg29, Col 2

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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.

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“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.

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last April, said the goats had become hit among visitors to Cromer, and specially-made 'Goats on a slope' tea towels and other merchandise promoting them had sold around the world.

Mr Frosdick said: "They've got to be some of the most photographed goats in the world.

"At feeding time, you get crowds of up to 20 people turn up and all want to chat about the goats.

"People are very surprised when they look over the cliff edge and see them grazing there."

Bagots were first brought to Britain in the 1380s and given by King Richard II to John Bagot, from a noble family in Staffordshire.

As recently as 2010 the Rare Breeds Survival Trust listed the breed as 'critically endangered'. Although there are still only several hundred breeding nannies in the UK they are now considered 'vulnerable'.

A flock was first to Cromer in the summer 2016 to counter a rat infestation on the cliffs - the goats eat the same food and vegetation the rats were using.

Mr Frosdick said: "People were sitting there eating their fish and chips and rats were running around their feet."

They became such a firm favourite and proved so useful in habitat management in Cromer and at Salthouse Marshes, where they winter, the council decided to breed their own.

After a month or two more at Wiveton Hall - where they are shortly to graze in front of the property's cafe - they will return to Cromer's cliffs.

Mr Frosdick said the kids - which were already starting to develop the beginnings of horns - were a spirited bunch.

He said: "They do have a bit of rough and tumble. They've got hard heads, so they don't actually do each other any harm."



12 Bagot goat kids have been born as part of a breeding programme at Wiveton Hall.





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:

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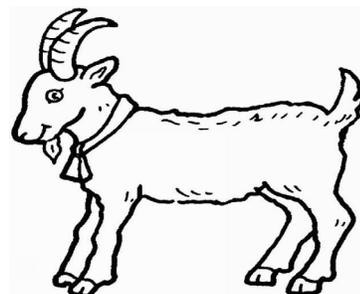
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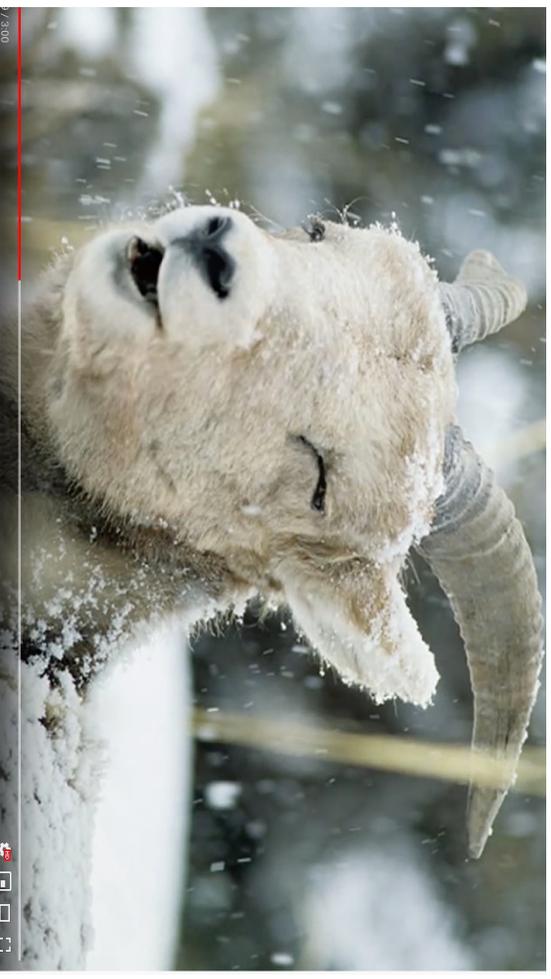


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