

-----Original Message-----

From: Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX [mailto:Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca]

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 3:23 PM

To: Linda & Phil Nuechterlein [REDACTED]

Subject: Re: Camelid Risk Assessment Question

That is what I said yes, it was not published in a journal so not peer reviewed

Helen

On Apr 22, 2020, at 4:11 PM, Linda & Phil Nuechterlein [REDACTED] wrote:

Hi Dr. Schwantje,

Thank you for your prompt reply and explanation. Just to clarify, "Risk Assessment on the Use of South American Camelids for Back Country Trekking in British Columbia" (Final Report October 24, 2017) was not peer reviewed. Is that correct?

Thank you,

-Philip

From: Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX [mailto:Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca]

Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 2:32 PM

To: Linda & Phil Nuechterlein [REDACTED]

Cc: Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX <Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca>

Subject: RE: Camelid Risk Assessment Question

Hi Philip,

The document you refer to was developed originally in 2003 in response to questions to me by wildlife managers in BC who asked if the use of llamas in the backcountry presented disease risk, to wild sheep in particular. At the time there was no comprehensive assessment of camelid diseases and the potential for transmission to wildlife.

Therefore we hired an NGO with that expertise to perform a disease risk assessment – see this set of guidelines that describe some of the manner in which these RAs are routinely developed for wildlife health purposes.

<https://portals.iucn.org/library/sites/library/files/documents/2014-006.pdf>

The paper was not published and therefore not submitted for peer review, it was simply a tool to direct decision making in BC. The final recommendations guided our management of llama backcountry use in parks and protected areas and simply provided direction such as describing the degree of risk and some methods to avoid them, ie permits requiring health inspections and preventative measures such as worming and vaccination.

With time and due to further concerns as well as an outbreak of contagious ecthyma in mtn goats in a remote area where reportedly llamas had been used (anecdotal of course with no names or records), the risk assessment was repeated in 2017, again as a contract to reassess the risk and to re-examine the literature. It also was not published but was provided as an RA. Both documents have repeatedly been reported inaccurately, a disease risk assessment simply describes risk, its up to the entity that is making a decision on that risk how they use it. In our case in BC, the RA was part of the reason that the use of camelids is not allowed for the purposes of hunting in part of northern BC.

I hope that this helps.

Regards,

Helen

Helen Schwantje DVM, MSc

Wildlife Veterinarian/ Wildlife and Habitat Branch British Columbia Ministry of Forests, Lands,  
Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development

2080 Labieux Road

Nanaimo, BC

V9T 6J9

Ph 250-751-3234/Fax 250-751-3103/Cell 250-361-7619

BC wildlife health website [www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth](http://www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth)<<http://www.gov.bc.ca/wildlifehealth>>

From: Linda & Phil Nuechterlein [REDACTED]

Sent: April 22, 2020 2:19 PM

To: Schwantje, Helen FLNR:EX

<Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca<mailto:Helen.Schwantje@gov.bc.ca>>

Subject: Camelid Risk Assessment Question

Hi Dr. Schwantje,

I am a llama owner in Alaska and have a question. Regarding the publication (that was apparently submitted to the organization that you work for) entitled "Risk Assessment on the use of South American Camelids for Back Country Trekking in British Columbia" (Final Report October 24, 2017), was it peer reviewed and if so what were the standards?

Thank you,

-Philip