

From: Stan Ebel [REDACTED]

Sent: Thursday, April 30, 2020 10:47 AM

To: 'Mike Cox' <mcox@ndow.org>

Cc: 'Linda & Phil Nuechterlein' [REDACTED]; [REDACTED]

Subject: AASRP policy statement

Hi Mike,

The American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (AASRP), issued the following updated policy in February 2020. While the statement contains no new information, it is the most current compilation and iteration of the dynamics concerning the possibility of disease transference from camelids to wildlife species, specifically to wild sheep and goat species.

Policy Statement Concerning Camelid Ban in National Parks:

There exists concern that the entry of camelid pack animals (llamas, alpacas) onto public lands poses a potential risk of disease to resident endangered or threatened ungulate populations including Boreal Caribou, Northern Mountain Caribou, Central Mountain Caribou, Southern Mountain Caribou, Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Goat, Dall's Sheep, Stone's Sheep and Roosevelt Elk. The diseases of concern by National Parks and wildlife managers include: Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae, Mannheimia haemolytica, Mycobacterium avium paratuberculosis, Mycobacterium bovis, Pasteurella spp., contagious ecthyma, bovine viral diarrhea virus (BVDV), and bluetongue virus. Transmission of pathogens from cattle and sheep to wild ungulates under natural conditions has been well documented in the literature. Examples include respiratory disease and fatal pneumonia following contact between domestic and bighorn sheep (Schommer & Woolever, 2008), M. bovis from cattle to elk in Riding Mountain National Park (Garde et al., 2009), and BVDV from cattle to deer (Passler & Walz, 2010). However, there have been no peer-reviewed publications documenting pathogen transmission from camelids to wild ungulates or to domestic sheep and goats for the pathogens of concern. The American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners is opposed to banning camelid pack animals on public lands until there is scientific justification for this action.

http://www.aasrp.org/about/policy_statement.asp

http://www.aasrp.org/about/policy_statements/Llama_Ban_rev2020.pdf

This policy statement comes from a professional association of over 1000 practicing, research, and regulatory veterinarians charged with protecting and guarding the health of the domestic and wild species proposed separation policies regularly involve. They know each species and understand the disease interactions both within and across species lines. AASRP specifically addresses the disease pathogens Schwantje '03, Garde, et.al '05, and CCH '17 identify as significant problems in wild sheep and goat populations and dismisses camelids as carriers of those pathogens. This precludes transference of those pathogens by camelids to wild species. Combined with WAFWA 2012 & 2016 not identifying llamas as a disease threat and ADF&G

abandoning consideration of llama disease on lack of merit, it would be appropriate for WSWG to make a statement acknowledging llamas do not pose a significant disease risk to wild sheep and goat species. This would free your committee to pursue actual disease issues and risks without the distraction of a non-issue and it would help remove an unnecessary burden from the llama industry.

I know you are putting together a response to our earlier petition and I see this statement as a significant consideration as you contemplate WSWG's position on this issue. I look forward to hearing from you. Thanks you for your time. Stan

Stan Ebel, President

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