

Stacy Olliva, phone number: 9077768656, has sent you the following inquiry from our website:

Stacy Oliva
 PO Box 8567 • Nikiski, Alaska 99635 • (907) 776-8656
 March 4, 2016
 VIA EMAIL: ADF&G@contact us

To whom it may Concern:

Proposal 90 has been brought before the Alaska Board of Game by the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation (the local chapter of a well-funded outside national organization), whose primary mission is the “conservation” of wild Dall sheep for purposes of recreational viewing, hunting, etc. They are requesting that the Board of Game eliminate domestic sheep and goats from Alaska’s “Clean List”. Their proposal would require that all owners of domesticated sheep and goats obtain permits from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) to own their livestock, complete expensive testing for unspecified diseases (testing which is not yet available), and that “all domestic sheep and goats within 15 air miles of Dall sheep habitat must be contained within a ADF&G approved facility (double fence, etc.)” The Bacteria of concern (*M.ovipneumoniae* and *M.haemolytica*) are endemic in wild and domestic populations and disease develops when immune systems become depressed.

Even if you didn’t live in Alaska, this proposal should be both concerning and objectionable. There are a number of problems with the premises and requirements of Proposal 90, and enactment of this extreme and unnecessary set of costly requirements (both to individuals domestic sheep and goat owners, and to the State of Alaska) would place extreme hardship on all Alaskan sheep and goat owners:

- There are no commercial goat or sheep operations in Alaska, and Alaska’s owners of domestic goat and sheep generally own only a few sheep or goats on small fenced acreage, on a small personal budget, located far from wild sheep habitat.
- Satisfying Proposal 90’s requirements for double fencing, testing, and permitting is completely unreasonable, financially burdensome, and unnecessary.
- All owners would be hit hard by the inability to import new genetics, as animals not on the “Clean List” may not be imported.
- Consequences for non-compliance with any of the new rules would include fines and eradication of livestock.
- For many owners, sheep and goats are not just producers of wool, milk or meat, but are their life’s passion and beloved family pets or children’s 4-H projects.
- The BOG should not allow an organization like the WSF to coerce a government agency to put small livestock owners out of business by enacting regulatory action with costly inspection and enforcement ON PRIVATE LAND.
- If this proposal is successful in Alaska, the Wild Sheep Foundation and other related “conservation” organizations will likely put other species of livestock in Alaska as well as other states in their cross-hairs.
- Farming and hunting are both time-honored traditions, and neither group should be unreasonably disenfranchised to serve the other. It’s not just about our animals, it’s about our freedom as taxpaying landowners to use our own land to grow our own food.

Please OPPOSE Prop 90.

Sincerely,
 Stacy Oliva