Shoshone National Forest
Pack Goat Use Permit Application Process

**Background:** This process was developed to implement the Shoshone National Forest’s 2018 Record of Decision for the Use of Domestic Sheep, Goats, and Pack Goats. The ROD identified four areas on the Shoshone where pack goat use would be allowed, but specified that a permit would be required for pack goat use in those areas. One of the requirements for obtaining a pack goat use permit would be providing evidence of negative disease testing results for each pack goat entering the Forest. This permit application process and disease testing protocol was prepared to inform pack goat users of disease testing and health inspection requirements, and is subject to change based upon new information.

**To obtain a permit for pack goat use on the Shoshone National Forest:**

1. Be sure the area you plan to travel is open to pack goat use during the time you want to go. See the Shoshone National Forest website or call any Shoshone National Forest office for information.
2. Have each pack goat that you plan to bring to the Forest tested for disease and a veterinary health inspection conducted as specified by the Pack Goat Disease Testing & Health Inspection Protocol (see below). Documentation of negative testing results and a clean health inspection will be needed to apply for a permit.
3. There are several requirements for pack goat use on the Shoshone National Forest. Pack goat users planning trips to the Shoshone must be aware of those requirements when applying for a permit and abide by them when recreating with their pack goats on the Forest. These requirements can be found on the Shoshone National Forest website.
4. Initiate the permitting process by filling out the permit application form. Each pack goat owner must obtain a separate permit for each trip to the Shoshone National Forest. Pack goat use permit applications may be filled out in person at any Shoshone National Forest office, or submitted in advance via mail or email to: SM.FS.SnfPkGtPrmt@usda.gov. It is recommended that applicants contact the Shoshone National Forest in advance to ensure timely processing of their permit application.
5. Permit applicants must pick up their permit in person at a Shoshone National Forest office, and must bring each pack goat with that they plan to use under the permit they are applying for. Forest Service staff will match animal ID’s on disease testing & health inspection forms with the animal ID’s of each pack goat present at that time.
6. You must keep your permit with you when recreating with your pack goats on the Shoshone National Forest.

**Pack Goat Disease Testing & Health Inspection Protocol**

**Disease Testing Requirements:** Pack goat users must have each pack goat that they plan to use on the Shoshone National Forest tested for *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae (M. ovi.)* using the *M. ovi. PCR* test. To potentially reduce the cost of testing, pack goat users may also choose to pool samples. Users should coordinate with the lab where they will be sending their samples first if they plan to have pooled samples tested. Typically, samples from up to 5 goats may be pooled. Each goat is sampled individually.
and submitted to the lab, where the individual samples are then pooled. If the pooled sample tests negative, then all animals included in the pooled sample are negative. If the pooled sample tests positive, then each individual goat must be re-tested to determine the status of each animal.

Samples for testing must be collected by a USDA-accredited veterinarian. For help locating a USDA-accredited veterinarian in your area, go to: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/nvap/ct_locate_av

Samples must be analyzed by a laboratory accredited by the American Association of Veterinary Laboratory Diagnosticians (AAVLD). A list of AAVLD-accredited labs is available on-line at: https://www.aavld.org/accredited-labs. When applying for a permit for pack goat use on the Shoshone National Forest, pack goat owners must provide a certificate for each pack goat from the accredited lab showing negative M. ovi PCR test results. Test results for each pack goat must correspond to the animal’s individually identifiable number or mark, and will be valid for the remainder of that calendar year.

**Veterinary Health Inspection Requirements:** Pack goat users must have each pack goat inspected by a USDA-accredited veterinarian. Inspections are to assess and document the overall health of each pack goat, and specifically to look for clinical symptoms of conditions such as Keratoconjunctivitis (pink eye), contagious ecthymia (sore moth), Johne’s disease, caseous lymphadenitis, caprine arthritis encephalitis (CAE), and ovine progressive pneumonia (OPP) that may be transmitted to wild bighorn sheep. Results of health inspections will be recorded by the veterinarian conducting the inspection on the Health Inspection Form and presented at the time of applying for a permit to use pack goats on the Shoshone National Forest. Permits for pack goat use will not be issued to applicants whose animals had health concerns noted on inspection forms.

**Pack Goat Permit application forms and Health Inspection Forms can be found at:** https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/shoshone/home/?cid=FSEPRD645983. To apply for or pick up a pack goat use permit on the Shoshone National Forest, contact one of the following offices:

**Clarks Fork, Greybull, and Wapiti Ranger Districts**  
203A Yellowstone Avenue  
Cody, WY 82414  
(307)-527-6921

**Washakie Ranger District**  
333 East Main Street  
Lander, WY 82520  
(307)-332-5460

**Wind River Ranger District**  
1403 West Ramshorn  
Dubois, WY 82513  
(307)-455-2466