



Alaska Wild Wind Adventures

My name is Cabot Pitts, I am a resident of Alaska and reside in Palmer, AK. I run and operate Alaska Wild Wind Adventures, which is a hunting and guide operation specializing in backcountry hunting trips. We employ 6-10 local and non-local guides, packers and pilots a season. As a conservation based business, we fully rely on the safety and wellbeing of the wild places and inhabiting animals that call those places home within our great state of Alaska. I am writing this letter in full support of the proposed Revisions to Animal Importation, Animal Testing, and Disease Reporting (18 AAC 36), but would like to see this go forward with an exception by adding an amendment to include the mandatory testing of **ALL AGE CLASSES** of domestic sheep and goats imported into Alaska.

At this time and age especially with what has happened this year dealing with the CoVid-19 pandemic, it is seen firsthand what can happen to a human race when a virus is implanted into our species and how fast and deadly that virus can be. With all the effort put forth from different government agencies to find a vaccine for our human race, I feel it is imperative, to be preemptive on things with similar relationships, such as our case with E-Movi potentially being transmitted from domestic stock into our wild herds of sheep and goats in Alaska. The consequences will have irrevocable effects and the only real preventative step right now is to limit the potential of transmission from domestic to wild populations.

I see the concerns from the domestic side in terms of cost for testing or loss of animals, but with the amount of management and perplexity that is directly linked to E-Movi, Dall Sheep and mountain goats; the pendulum needs to be looked at thoroughly. There are numbers of organizations that specifically fight for protecting these specific wild species. The number one organization that I know that has stepped forward, has been the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation. Others include the Wild Sheep Foundation(national), Rocky Mountain Goat Alliance and the Alaska Professional Hunters Association, the list goes on. Millions upon millions of conservation dollars support the AKWSF, WSF, APHA and wild sheep chapters across North America every year. These organizations are fighting to protect and save what we as humans have ultimately in most aspects destroyed over time. I find it very critical now to support a very simple testing for ALL age classes of domestic sheep and goats entering into the state of Alaska. This should be a minimal requirement to help save the potential of a catastrophe when it comes to such a valuable resource. Let's work together and help prevent this problem, instead of having to backpedal after a major event happens. We know E-Movi is deadly to wild sheep and goats, that renders from domesticated interaction and contraction with these wild animals. A little cost on the front end for testing, will save millions on the backend, when something that we know can easily wipe out populations of wild stock. Thank you for taking my comments on this matter and I have faith that the DEC will make the right call when it comes down to making a decision.

Sincerely,
Cabot Pitts
President – Alaska Wild Wind Adventures