

AARON Bloomquist

I support this regulation although I don't think it goes far enough. This is a good first step toward safeguarding our valuable wild sheep from m-ovi. All sheep and goats currently in the State should also be tested. I have been intimately involved with this issue from its inception. I personally drafted the original proposal to the Board of Game to remove domestic Sheep and Goats from the Clean List. I think this is still a viable alternative if DEC does not go far enough to mitigate these risks. I intend to pursue this avenue if this proposal does not become law. The Board of Game has been very patient in this process, maybe too patient. They absolutely have the authority to do this and ADF&G would then have a permitting mandate to do testing for import and also for current animals in the State. This wildlife is too valuable to thousands of Alaskans to continue to put them at risk. Thank you to the whole team at DEC for finally taking this threat seriously.