

Chuck McMahan

My name is Chuck McMahan and I have hunted and guided for sheep in Alaska since the early 60's, and sheep are still a big part of my business and life. It would be a devastating loss to all of us in the State if the sheep populations were to become infected with a disease that killed them off like they have in places in the lower 48. Not just a \$ wise loss, but sheep are a part of what defines Alaska and I wouldn't want to see them, or any other of our wild animal populations endangered.

I am in support of this proposal to require testing of all ages of domestic sheep and goats for Movi before importing to Alaska, and not allow any imported that test positive. Like most of the people commenting, I am not an expert in these matters and learn what I do know by what others write that study these things. It seems safe to say by what I've read that there is a real danger to the wild populations of sheep and goats by the spread of the disease from domestic sheep and goats that are carrying Movi. The value of the wild populations of Alaskan animals is immeasurable in many different ways, and using common sense we should conclude that we should do whatever it takes to the best of our ability to protect the wild stocks of game from this disease. I am usually against more regulations and paperwork and needless expense for any small business owner, and feel for those with goats and sheep that will have to comply with these requirements, but I think it is a serious threat that has to be dealt with. Maybe the problem of the cost of testing etc. can be alleviated some way for those that have to pay for testing, and sharper brains than mine can figure out where the funding for that might come from.

We are fortunate to live in a state that is remotely located with the main avenues of import relatively easy to monitor for the most part compared to other states, to make a proposal like this more effective.