



Pack Llama Trail Association, Inc.

Dedicated to Preserving and Promoting the Working Llama

www.packllama.org

PLTA BOARD MEETING MINUTES: MAY 19, 2020

Introduction

Location of Meeting:	Tele-Conference Call
Call to Order Time:	7:17 MST
Adjourn Time:	8:01 MST
Board Members Present:	Tom Seifert, President Lisa Wolf, Secretary Greg Hall, Director at Large Scott Noga, Director at Large
Board Members Absent:	John Fant, Vice President Jen Hood, Treasurer Laura Steere, Director at Large
Other Attendees:	None
Last meeting:	Tuesday, April 21, 2020
Next meeting:	Tuesday, June 16, 2020
March minutes posted for review:	Wednesday, April 22, 2020
March minutes approved:	By electronic consent: May 6, 2020
Attachments:	ILR notice on Alaska llama ban

Summary of Decisions Made

- The PLTA will send a letter to the USFW service objecting to exclusion of llamas from the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. The board will also contact its members and other organizations to encourage them to also do so.

Treasurer's Report: Tom Seifert for Jen Hood

INITIAL BALANCE for PLTA U.S. Bank account on April 2, 2020	\$4871.32
DEPOSITS	\$ 146.09
Membership Fees	\$ 19.12
Associate Fees	\$ 0.00
Llama Registration	\$ 30.00
Sanctioning Fees	\$ 96.80
Other	\$ 0.00
Interest	\$ 0.17
EXPENDITURES	\$ 854.96
Great Northwest Insurance	(\$803.00)
Sandra Van Liew Mailings	(\$51.96)
MONTHLY NET INCOME	\$(708.87)
ANNUAL NET INCOME	\$ 59.00
ENDING BALANCE for PLTA U.S. Bank Account, April 31, 2020	\$4162.45



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Secretary's Report: Lisa Wolf

Website:

- No action has been taken on the website

Database:

- Accounts Database
 - Identified bugs and attempted unsuccessfully to resolve them (they do not affect data)
 - Updated payment records for Hood, Noga, and Seifert
 - Sent payment records report to Jen Hood, treasurer
- Llama Database
 - Fixed broken calculation field, Adjusted data entry layouts for easier use.
 - Added data for new llama registrations by Sandra Van Liew
 - Redwood Trisha Yearwood #1522
 - Redwood Penelope Cruz #1523
 - Willow McFly #1524
 - Corrected PLTA numbers for existing registrations
 - HOLR Jackson #1525 owned by Nancy Carpenter
 - HI TR Pretty Boy Floyd #1526 owned by Nancy Hester
 - Sent owner reports to Sandra Van Liew and Laura Steere
 - Sent Llama Listing report to Tom Seifert
 - Adjusted relationships to use llama PLTA numbers as primary keys.
 - Created tables and layouts for Challenge data.
 - Discussed Challenge data management with Anne Sheeter, program coordinator, and set up pathway for data management.
 - Began entering Challenge data.
 - Added data for Burns Llama Trailblazers' Spring 2020 trials to data base

Writer/Editor:

- Wrote draft script for certifier training video
- Set up and participated in meeting about certifier training video with Tom Seifert and Steven Mortinson
- Set up filming plan for certifier training video videos with videographer Steven Mortinson
- Returned to work on Pack Trial Handbook update

Next Up:

- Review/ further edit certifier training video script

Update on Actions Going Forward From April Meeting:

Person	Assignment	Status
Greg Hall	Contact Apple again to find out about nonprofit support options	not returning calls
Greg Hall	Set up groups.io sites for the mileage club and certifiers	Not yet done
Greg Hall	Film activities at Laura's pack trial/challenge event	In process
Tom Seifert	Sign PLTA up with Tech Soup non-profit tech support organization	In process
Jen Hood	Re-send PLTA non-profit information to Laura for use with Tech Soup sign-up	Completed
Lisa Wolf	Contact Steven Mortinson to advise him of the Boards decision, set up an electronic conference meeting, with him and Tom, and meet to discuss procedure	Completed 5/7/2020
Board	Begin locating still images for use in a promotional video	In process
Jen Hood	Provide input on content of video topics	To do



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Old Business

Progress on Certifier Training Video

Update Provided by Tom & Lisa: We met with Steven Mortinson and set up a plan for filming.

- Lisa will add detail to the preliminary script.
- Tom and Lisa will do some practice filming using their phones
- Steven will visit Burns Llama Trailblazers in late June.
 - This is a certifier training video for certifiers, not a promotional video for any specific group or organization.
 - Emphasis is on demonstrating llama 'bad behavior' and specific areas where a llama might lose points or be disqualified.
 - Due to local pandemic restrictions 4-H kids will not be able to be used. Demonstrations will be made by an adult demonstrating some bad behavior.
 - Tom and Lisa will work on building a script that will expedite efficient use of time. Stephen only has the weekend.

Discussion: The Board enthusiastically supports the project.

Action Going Forward: Continue as planned

New Business

Dick Sheehan Relocation Affect on PLTA Administration: Scott Noga

Concern: The Sheehan's of Idaho, where the PLTA is "officially" based at their address, are moving to a retirement condo in Florida. We need to discuss the impact to our state and federal registration.

Discussion: Via actions taken by President Tom Seifert, the State of Idaho has changed its record of the registered agent for the PLTA from Dick Sheehan to Tom Seifert. This was accomplished on February 3, 2020.

Action Going Forward: No action is required

Llama Ban: Scott Noga

Issue: (See attached) Similar to last year's proposal by the USFS of Alaska to ban llamas in the Chugach National Forest, a ban is proposed by the USFWS for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge again under the guise of Dall Sheep protection. The comment period closes June 8. I propose the PLTA send a letter from the organization similar ones previously sent addressing proposed bans. The ILR is soliciting public comments.

Discussion:

- This appears to be a repeat of unfounded concerns about Johnne's disease similar to what we have encountered in British Columbia, SE Oregon and other areas.
- We have done the research previously and can plagiarize documents we have written and submitted on other occasions.
- As many potentially interested parties as possible should be contacted. Numbers of responses count in situations like this.

Action Going Forward:

- President Tom Seifert will solicit support from other llama organizations across the country.
- With the help of Secretary Lisa Wolf, Tom will write a letter on behalf of the PLTA
 - The letter will include scientific facts regarding llamas and disease).
 - The letter will be sent to Board members for approval.



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Tech Soup Discussion: Tom Seifert

Issue: Registering the PLTA with the TechSoup organization

Tom Seifert contacted TechSoup and talked to a representative by the name of Darcie. TechSoup is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that works to support other non-profits by giving them the opportunity to acquire technical electronic materials such as computer programs, IT support, and webinars at a much reduced rate. There are no fees to join, however, there are administrative costs related to the purchase of specific goods. For example, Microsoft 19 which retails at \$633.00. can be acquired via TechSoup for \$39.00. Tom gave Tech Soup our EIN so they can vet the PLTA as a proper nonprofit organization and register us with their organization. This process will take seven to ten days. Once vetted we can make purchases and use their free IT support services. TechSoup will be in contact with Tom Seifert.

Discussion:

Board members see TechSoup as a potentially useful and are anxious to move forward

Action Going Forward:

- Tom Seifert will take the lead in interfacing with TechSoup. He becomes the PLTA's official contact person.
- All board members are asked to review the information on the TechSoup website and other sources in detail to examine possible 'hidden costs,' or entanglements that might hurt the PLTA.
- All Board members are also asked to examine specific areas where TechSoup could be helpful to the PLTA.
- Further discussion will take place during June meeting.

Board Member Action List

A "to do" list for board members and volunteers

Person	Assignment	Date for Completion
Greg Hall	Contact Apple again to find out about nonprofit support options	
Greg Hall	Set up groups.io sites for the mileage club and certifiers	May 22, 2020
Greg Hall	Edit films of activities at Laura's pack trial/challenge event	As time permits
Tom Seifert	Continue working with TechSoup to get PLTA properly registered	promptly
Board	Review TechSoup information for hidden costs or other problems	promptly
Board	Examine specific areas where TechSoup could be helpful to the PLTA.	promptly
Lisa Wolf & Tom Seifert	Write script for Certifier training film. Practice videoing using phones	promptly
Board	Continue locating still images for use in a promotional video	promptly
Jen Hood	Provide input on content of video topics	Continuing
Tom Seifert & Lisa Wolf	Write letter protesting ban on use of llamas in ANWR and post letter for review by board members	ASAP
Board	Review and approve letter protesting ban on use of llamas in ANWR	ASAP
Tom Seifert	Submit ban protest letter to the USFWS	By 6/8/20

Announcements

The next Board meeting will be Tuesday, June 16, 2020

Attachment: Text of ILR Request for Support

Your Help is Needed Again
Another Alaskan Park is trying to ban llamas.



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We need your help again. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) recently announced that it is proposing to eliminate the pack llama (camelid) user group as part of a proposed regulation package. This is yet another attempt (in Alaska) to ban camelids as a disease threat to wildlife that is scientifically untenable.

Because of your help earlier this year we were able to defeat a similar proposal by the U.S. Forest Service in Alaska (Chugach National Forest). Your participation will be critical in order to win this next battle.

This could set a precedent and adversely affect our future access on public lands throughout all of the United States if allowed to stand.

Please object to this proposal by submitting a comment as per the instructions below.

Please note that while the ban sounds like it is only referring to hunting and fishing, the last line of the proposals states: "Lastly, we propose to prohibit domestic sheep, goat, and camelid pack animals on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge." This line does not show up on the summaries shown on their site.

Below is an example of a letter that you can send that explains why llamas are no threat. You can instead send a short note in your own words summarizing the information. Short letters or those broken up into several paragraphs tend to get read more often.

The Deadline for comments is June 8 but don't wait as letters coming in at the last minute may be overlooked.

Send your emails to:

Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

In the search box, type in FWS-HQ-NWRS-2020-0013, which is the docket number.

Then, click on the search button.

On the resulting screen, find the correct document

"2020-2021 Station-Specific Hunting and Sport Fishing Regulations".

Submit a comment by clicking on "Comment Now!"

Or go directly to the document at this link:

<https://www.regulations.gov/docket?D=FWS-HQ-NWRS-2020-0013> & click on "Comment Now!"

Go to <http://www.regulations.gov>.

In the search box, type in FWS-HQ-NWRS-2020-0013, which is the docket number for this rule.

Snail Mail:

Public Comments Processing

Attn: FWS-HQ-NWRS-2020

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

5275 Leesburg Pike,

MS: PRB/PERMA (JAO)

Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

See [Tips For Submitting Effective Comments.pdf](#). It's best to submit an original comment. However, if you are not able to do so, you may use the sample comment (below) verbatim or use it as a starting point to craft your own comment (preferred).



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Because so many comments about the rest of the proposal have already been submitted, it is important to title you comment referencing llamas.

1) We (as a user group) were not informed of the 2015 public review process that prohibited our **historical** user group, llama packing, from recreating on the ANWR. We should have been included in that discussion and NEPA process that takes away this public land use.

2) Llamas and horses are both widely separated from wild sheep taxonomically and consequently enjoy strong species barriers against disease transmission. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) failed to recognize this by miscategorizing camelids with domestic sheep and goats as a common disease risk. Domestic sheep and goats (bovids) are not widely separated from wild sheep (also bovids) taxonomically, consequently, they do not enjoy the same species barriers against disease transmission to wild sheep that horses and llamas do.

3) The USFWS failed to provide credible scientific evidence that implicates camelids as a disease threat to wildlife in ANWR or that camelids pose a greater disease transmission risk than horses. (Horses are not prohibited in ANWR). U.S. scientific literature regarding the pack llama's excellent safety record (including bovid disease resistance and historical federal land use) is well documented but is not cited in this proposal. Wild sheep are bovids. It appears that the USFWS may have arbitrarily chosen to prohibit one of the least likely animals to spread disease to wildlife in ANWR in their effort to pursue precautionary measures.

4) The USFWS states that this proposed ANWR regulation is better aligned with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) regulations. This is not an accurate statement regarding camelids because ADF&G regulations do not prohibit the use of camelids anywhere in Alaska including ANWR. ADF&G has the staff, expertise, and resources to properly evaluate disease threats to wildlife. They have studied the camelid disease issue extensively and have elected to allow camelids (pack llamas) statewide without restrictions.

5) Furthermore, the USFWS states the proposed prohibition better aligns with the 2012 recommendations from the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (WAFWA). WAFWA 2012 recommendations do not include a prohibition of camelids. So this proposed regulation is not aligned with state regulations nor the WAFWA as claimed by the USFWS.

In conclusion, this proposed regulation does not expand public use opportunities as intended. It instead restricts these activities in remote areas where pack animals might be necessary for public access. By this letter I am providing formal notice of objection to the proposed regulation that prohibits pack llamas (camelids) in ANWR.

Resolution: *Specifically, I request that USFWS refrain from identifying camelids (pack llamas) as a disease threat and remove all reference in the proposed regulations and planning documents that implicate them as a disease threat.*

Your first and last name*

Your credentials (optional)**

*Your comment will be labeled "Anonymous" if you do not enter a first and last name.

**Don't include personal identifying information (such as a phone number) in the comment itself, as this will be available to the public.

Sincerely,

ILR Board of Directors

Ron Wilkinson, Linda Hayes, Mark Smith,

Ramona Simpson and Sharon VanHooser

May 13, 2020