

Goats Eat Weeds 2.0

1. Extension agent/specialist mentor name and county/region.

Robin Young, Archuleta County, San Juan Basin.

2. Are there any other identified mentors (e.g. campus-based faculty/staff or other Extension personnel) associated with this project?

Not yet, but there will be. I'm planning on asking Phil Westra

3. In what region(s) will the student be working (county/region)?

Southwest Colorado, Archuleta County

4. Please describe the proposed internship goals, scope, and objectives.

This project will include working with goats as noxious weed control. The research will include how to identify what seed passes through the rumen and its viability.

5. How was this applied research project identified?

There is speculation that using goats for weed control could be exacerbating the problem by spreading noxious weed seed.

6. With which stakeholder group(s) will the intern work?

San Juan Conservation District, Archuleta County Weed and Pest, NRCS, and the Banded Peaks Ranch

7. What student learning outcomes do you anticipate and are there opportunities for professional development?

The student will not only learn about goat management and seed viability passing through the rumen, but will also have the opportunity to do various Extension activities. The student will be able to shadow the Extension agent and participate in different areas of Extension work including County Fair, property visits, and special projects. They will also be able to learn more about the county weed and pest department, the NRCS and Conservation District work, and work on one of the most spectacular ranches in Colorado.

8. Do you have a specific mentor style that you would like to share with potential interns?

I am a hands on Mentor. I believe that interns learn best when they feel the environment is an open learning atmosphere. They have the freedom to tailor their program to their needs and offer their ideas.

9. Are travel funds available? Opportunities to provide student assistance with housing?

I am willing to provide transportation to Pagosa if needed. Housing is available.