

# Proposal: Goat Walkers on Confluence Property

By Tom Talbott

## Background

As we move closer to having goats as residents of Baicatcan, securing places to walk them becomes a necessity. Baicatcan itself has upland areas and a small area of Hotsprings Wash to the north of Cascabel Rd. available. To the north of Baicatcan is fenced-off upland State Trust land that is leased by Saguaro Juniper. To the west, east, and south of Baicatcan is mostly private land, including much of Hotsprings Wash.

The ability to walk the goats in nearby areas that have an abundance of vegetation many times of the year will help in the cost of feed as well as keep the goats in good health. CCA owns property to the south and west—the Confluence Property—that includes a small stretch of Hotsprings Wash as well as a stretch of the San Pedro River downstream from Paige Canyon. At this time of year it has lots of bermuda grass, amaranth, and tumbleweed that the goats would love to consume. Tamarisk is always available as well. So far, no use policy has been put in place for that land and it does not have a conservation easement.

The Talbotts own property to the east of the Confluence Property and south of Baicatcan. It shares a short border near the river with the Confluence Property. The Talbott property contains a third of a mile of the San Pedro River, but BLM land separates the sections of river between their property and the Confluence. The Talbotts will be allowing goat tenders to use their land to walk the goats and there are two river accesses available for walking depending on whether the camp on the property is in use.

Kai Staats owns property between the Confluence Property and the Talbotts. Kai has graciously agreed to permit tenders to walk the goats through his property along Hotsprings Wash (the part below the high bank) to the Confluence Property.

In general, grazing on BLM land is not allowed without permission.

## Motions

**Motion 1:** Formally permit goat tenders to walk goats on the Confluence Property.

**Motion 2:** Designate and clear “goat paths” from Baicatcan through the Confluence Property on the lower floodplain that connects up with the Talbott property and its current trails, avoiding BLM land along the San Pedro River.

## Discussion

Included is a map of current and proposed routes for goat walking. On the map is the current route through the Talbott property to the confluence of Paige Canyon and the San Pedro River (marked in red). The proposal is to create “goat paths” through the Confluence Property that connect up with the route through the Talbott property, making a loop through the Hotsprings floodplain, the San Pedro

floodplain, and the upper mesquite bosque. The term “goat path” is used to designate a trail that is not groomed as a major hiking trail, but is passable by goats and tenders who have backcountry experience and permission to be on the property. It should not be inviting to motorized vehicles and may require extra signage to enforce.



- Access to proposed path via new goat path from Cascabel Rd.
- Access to proposed path via Hotsprings wash through Talbott and Staats properties
- Proposed goat walk path through Confluence property to Talbott property
- Current route through Talbott property to confluence (Might modify for when camp is in use)

The proposed new paths on the Confluence Property will all be on the lower floodplain below the upper bosque. The route for the paths through the Confluence Property is not finalized. In order to stay off BLM land, the route needs to pass near the embankment of the upper bosque at the SE corner of the Confluence Property. Some clearing on both properties will be required to make it passable.