




# TOWN OF FAIRFAX

## STAFF REPORT

### July 18, 2018

**TO:** Mayor and Town Council

**FROM:** Garrett Toy, Town Manager 

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the Town Manager to spend up to \$20,000 for goat vegetation management for fire hazard reduction

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#### **RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the Town Manager to spend up to \$20,000 for goat vegetation management for fire hazard reduction.

#### **DISCUSSION**

Currently, approximately 400 goats are currently eating vegetation above White Hill School. The operator anticipates the goats completing their task sometime the week of July 15th. As a result, there is a three-week window of opportunity to use the goats prior to their next contractual assignment on August 8<sup>th</sup>. However, the goats cannot wait for an opportunity to arise as they must eat every day and, ideally, they need to be able to be herded to the next assignment.

Staff is working with FIRESafe Marin to identify potential opportunities for adjacent/nearby properties. This authority would provide the flexibility for the Town Manager to take advantage of this opportunity should a location be identified. If a location cannot be secured, the goats would move on earlier to their next assignment. Unfortunately, the County indicates there is insufficient time for them to prepare (e.g., biological surveys, fencing of protected areas) the Cascade Open Space Preserve for the goats. However, the County and Town staff have agreed to begin discussing the use of goats in the near future in the Cascade area.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

It costs approximately \$800/day for the goats. The goats can cover about 1 acre per day. The costs would be charged to the Town's fire inspection/prevention budget (Fund 01-421) of \$75,000.