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Organization: Larson Livestock, Inc

Title: President

Comments: RE: Comments on the Draft "High Uintas Wilderness Domestic Sheep Analysis" EIS

Dear Dave:

We support Alternative two (2), the Forest Service Proposed Action, which would authorize grazing to continue and we request that Alternative two be selected.

As stated in the DEIS, "The primary purpose of this project is to comply with the court approved settlement agreement issued in 2013 in response to the litigation brought against the US Forest Service for utilizing a Categorical Exclusion for use in granting authority to graze livestock on allotments."

The Forest Service did not violate the law by reauthorizing livestock grazing using the Categorical Authority (CE) which authority was granted to the Forest Service by Congress. By not fighting this litigation, the Forest Service provided taxpayer money to be paid to the litigants under the Equal Access to Justice Act and caused an inordinate amount of time and money to be spent complying with the settlement agreement. The scoping had to be out to the public by the end of May 2014 and we have been working on this issue for the past 7 years.

By prevailing in court the litigants will use the risk of disease transmission from domestic sheep to bighorn sheep, to try to force the closure of the subject grazing allotments. One of the litigants In their mission statement, reveals the following: Our primary focus is on the negative Impacts of livestock grazing on millions of acres of public lands, including harm to ecological, biological, cultural, historic, archaeological, scenic resources, and wilderness values In addition, one of the litigants boasts about being one of the steering committee members for the "National Public Lands Grazing Campaign", which has "a progressive plan to end abusive livestock grazing on America's public lands...."

Domestic livestock grazing is one of the multiple uses of the federal lands. Livestock grazing has been a major use of the Forest Service managed federal lands on the Uinta Mountains since the late 1800's. The bighorn sheep, which will be used by the future litigants to try to force the closure of the subject allotments, is not at risk. As stated by Director Mike Fowlks, Utah Division of Wildlife Resources, "This population of bighorn sheep has co-existed with domestic sheep in proximity to their occupied habitat for nearly 30 years, and our agency has successfully managed a sustainable population of wild sheep during that time."

Alternative two is the correct alternative for this EIS, and again we request you select Alternative two.

Carl A. Larson, President