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Comments: Thank you for this opportunity to comment. I want to point out that under this plan, management of domestic sheep grazing allotments will change to adhere to stated agency goals of protecting wildlife and using best science to manage the land. To be more specific, current science shows that bighorn sheep actively range on and near what are currently active domestic sheep allotments. According to this plan, any such allotments should be closed. I hope that the GMUG will uphold this promise of protecting our native, state animal by considering the ample evidence of bighorn sheep presence in and around domestic sheep grazing allotments before approving any future grazing.

The science that I refer to comes from both CPW collar data showing foray of bighorns and from photographic data obtained by Mountain Studies Institute's Colorado Bighorn Sheep Monitoring Program (CBSMP) and found at www.mountainstudies.org/bighorn.

The GMUG land management plan states that effective separation will be maintained between domestic and bighorn sheep (FW-STND-SPEC-13) and that sheep will be managed according to the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agency's Recommendations for Domestic Sheep and Goat Management in Wild Sheep Habitat. These guidelines state that, "Land management agencies that regulate or are responsible for domestic sheep or goat grazing allotments, trailing routes, vegetation management, use as pack stock, or any other uses involving domestic sheep or goats should only authorize such use(s) outside of occupied wild sheep range." (https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5385708.pdf, page 12). Data collected as part of the (CBSMP) can inform our understanding of both the current extent of wild sheep range and areas where effective separation has not been maintained in the past.

In conclusion, please review all available data on bighorn sheep distribution and follow this plan by ensuring that only grazing allotments without any bighorn sightings nearby be permitted. While "nearby" is vague, it should be considered in relation to typical bighorn foray distances, on the order of tens of miles.

Thank you.