Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/23/2023 5:35:07 PM First name: Lindsay Last name: Welfelt Organization:

Title:

Comments: Wildlife is a public trust and our public lands should be managed to be enjoyed by all peoples. We should not allow the interests of a select few ranchers impact the wildlife and wildlife habitats on our public lands. Science shows that contact between domestic sheep and wild bighorn sheep lead to disease transmission, and ultimately death for many wild animals. Not only does sheep grazing have the ability to impact wild sheep, but it disrupts the environment by causing erosion, spreading invasive plants, and degrading water sources. Other wildlife species are also impacted due to the potential for depredations, such as cougar, endangered gray wolves, and grizzly bear (should they be reintroduced). It is time to stop killing carnivores for taking advantage of the (domestic) prey populations in National Forests. As a lifelong resident of the Eastern Cascades, I strongly support removal of sheep grazing on the Okanogan Wenatchee National Forest and would support the removal of cattle grazing should that be proposed.