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First name: David

Last name: Craven

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Because my family has been in the cattle business for generations, I understand the value of public land grazing leases to ranchers in the mountain regions. We benefitted from forest service grazing leases in central California for decades. But we have an obligation to conduct these leases in a way that protects the wildlife that is our national heritage and treasure.

With prudent management, I am confident that both interests can be served. I do not favor the elimination of public land grazing leases. There are large sections of public lands that can support this activity. But I ask that you recognize those places that will be more adversely affected by livestock grazing. I believe the lands that currently support our wild sheep populations are in this category.

Please consider protecting bighorn sheep habitat by prohibiting sheep grazing on or near such places. We have taken enough of the land they once occupied. Please prevent further degradation of their population by introducing diseases they are not equipped to fight.