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Comments: I am writing to express my vehement opposition to grazing in Wilderness. I say this as a livestock owner who does not extract what is effectively public welfare in the form of grazing rights on public lands.. As a hiker and ranger, I have seen dozens of times how befouled every alpine stream becomes by grazing livestock, especially when predators are killed to allow them to stay in one place, destroying wetlands and meadows. The High Uintas Wilderness should be dedicated to its native wildlife. To the extent livestock grazing is allowed if it must be, it should be limited so as to not compete with wildlife for food or space or to spread disease to native species. Moreover, wild predators are the best protection for native vegetation and waterways, as they force the livestock to move frequently. If ranchers employed livestock guardian dogs, as I do, they would see 95%+ fewer losses to predation, and those predators have been shown to offset their take in the reduction of leg breakages from burrowers that predators also help control.

Grazing is particularly inappropriate in places like the High Uintas, where it damages watersheds in one of the most water scarce states in the country. Grazing by domestic sheep and cows compromises the High Uintas watersheds, fouls the lakes and streams, and severely degrades the experience of visitors seeking a Wilderness experience. Grazing should be curtailed to meet the public's interest in protecting the High Uintas for wildlife and an authentic Wilderness experience for visitors.

Domestic sheep grazing is incompatible with recovering native bighorn sheep population. If domestic sheep grazing remains in the High Uintas, the native bighorn sheep are likely doomed.

Killing native predators to protect sheep or cows is antithetical to the Wilderness act, and should be prohibited if domestic livestock grazing is allowed to continue. The SDEIS fails to disclose how many native predators-such as black bears, mountain lions, or coyotes-are killed in the High Uintas Wilderness to protect domestic sheep. The SDEIS also fails to disclose the effects continued sheep grazing has on the potential for recovering native wildlife such as wolves and grizzly bears.

It is clear that grazing in the way it is being proposed is illegal under the Wilderness Act and Endangered Species Act, and those making decisions should know the legal liability they are incurring on their agency. Why do this to provide welfare to ranchers in the form of publicly subsidized land and water?