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First name: Bill

Last name: Gardner

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please choose the "No grazing" option for the High Uintas Wilderness Area. Wilderness areas should be maintained as wildlife refuges, places where nature is allowed free rein. There is nothing "wild" or "natural" about domestic animals being allowed to roam freely in a wilderness area. Allowing domestic animals to graze in a wilderness area is a great example of "The tail wagging the dog". The environmental damage caused by domestic animals grazing on public lands should not be permitted on any public lands, let alone in wilderness areas. Grazing by domestic animals in wilderness areas is extremely detrimental to the wild animals that are native to these areas. They bring disease, overgraze the land and pollute the waters, and, because they require protection from natural predators such as mountain lions, bears, and wolves, these predators are killed rather than allowing them the protection that a wilderness area should provide for them.

The overall health of all wilderness areas is dependent on not allowing the grazing of domestic animals inside their borders. The no-grazing option is beneficial to the health of the naturally occurring flora and fauna, the protection of the watershed from pollution and damage to watercourses, and to the enjoyment of people who use wilderness areas for their intended uses: recreation and escape from the reminders of civilization.

Thank you,  
Bill Gardner