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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I recently became aware of this SDEIS and I feel compelled to contact you about it. While I'm unaware of how domestic sheep grazing came to overtake a large portion of the High Uintas Wilderness it's hard for me to understand how that was allowed to happen in the first place. What's done is done but now the opportunity presents itself to correct the initial blunder. Correcting the initial mistake certainly would help the bighorn herd that's re-established itself in a part of the High Uintas Wilderness to be able to spread more broadly throughout the HUW. But even more so, it's most likely that removing the domestic sheep herds would allow for the return of the bears, coyotes, and mountain lions that are the native animals of the HUW. Far too many native mammals like these have disappeared from our country.

I urge you to consider the following information when making your final decision on the SDEIS.

The High Uintas Wilderness should be dedicated to its native wildlife. To the extent livestock grazing is allowed, it should be limited so as to not compete with wildlife for food or space or to spread disease to native species.

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> 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 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.

> Support the no grazing option as it is best for the wildlife, watersheds, recreation, and the Wilderness. At the very least, the Forest Service should close any sheep grazing allotment if the permit is waived back to the Forest Service.

Thank you.