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Comments: Wilderness, by my definition, is for wildlife, not commercial grazing of domesticated livestock. The High Uintas Wilderness should be for its native wildlife, not for livestock that displace wildlife, introduce invasive species, compact soil, pollute surface waters, etc. Livestock grazing, particularly sheep and cows grazing, degrades watersheds, fouls surface waters including the lakes and streams that are in the High Uintas. As John Muir said, "As sheep advance, flowers, vegetation, grass, soil, plenty, and poetry vanish." (John Muir, John of the Mountains; the Unpublished Journals of John Muir, ed. by Linnie Marsh Wolfe (Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1938, p. 351). Similar could be said of grazing cows.

Another historical source targeted the harm to done to mining: "The greatest curse to the miners and prospectors is that sheep are allowed to graze in the hills, destroying the grass and young trees, driving out the game, filling up the ditches and polluting the springs and ditches.")"Job Lot of Mining News," The Sumpter Miner, July 18, 1900, page 1)

Livestock grazing, particularly sheep and cows grazing, degrades watersheds, fouls surface waters including the lakes and streams that are in the High Uintas.

Domestic sheep grazing threaten bighorn sheep with disease.

Here is a list of scientifically documented harmful effects of commercial livestock grazing on public lands (including holistic, regenerative, restorative, passive season-long, and other livestock grazing).

Harmful Effects

- * introduction of invasive species
- * disease transmission
- * increase in fire danger
- * increased soil exposure, drying, compaction, erosion, and sedimentation
- * off-road vehicle trails, with associated noise, speeds, erosion, compaction, sedimentation
- * construction of roads
- * trucks and other motorized vehicles creating unauthorized roads
- * construction of facilities, such as cabins, water lines, and fences
- * damage to riparian areas, wetlands, and watersheds
- * damage to streamflow regimes
- * diminished water quantity as well as quality
- * surface water pollution
- * damage to aquatic habitat and species
- * cumulative contributions to the desertification of the public land
- * loss of fish and wildlife, both reduction of population and loss of species
- * displacement of wildlife
- * fragmentation of wildlife habitat
- * disruption of wildlife migration
- * slaughter of predatory species, such as bears and wolves
- * disturbance of bird breeding, roosting and feeding
- * removal of native flora species, such as pinyon juniper
- * degradation of native plant communities
- * reduction of nature's carbon storage capability
- * exacerbation of climate stresses and thereby contributing to climate change

- * public subsidies for commercial operations on public lands
- * unfair advantage given to subsidized operations versus operations on only private land
- * unsustainable production of agricultural commodities on public lands
- * general over-burdening of fragile arid lands
- * exclusion of other uses, including habitat and wildlife conservation
- * reduction of public access to public lands
- * loss of solitude and foot-powered recreation
- * interference with post-fire habitat restoration
- * failure of land stewards to document trespass violations, overstocking, and other harms
- * failure of land stewards to enforce trespass, overstocking, and other regulations
- * politicization of public land stewardship
- * commercial marketing of unhealthy diet rich in meats
- * cumulative impacts over time
- * cumulative impacts of multiple harms
- * cumulative impacts of multiple harms over time

Killing native predators to protect sheep or cows should be prohibited in a Wilderness that should be giving priority to conserving native wild species rather than serving private parties with economic interests that include not paying anyone to tend their livestock.

I support the no-grazing option as best for the wildlife, wildlands, watersheds, climate change mitigation, and the public, including both those who recreate on the lands and waters and those who appreciate public lands even if they can't visit every place.

I support the Forest Service closing any grazing allotment, sheep grazing allotment in particular for the High Uintas, if the permit is waived, surrendered, purchased back to the Forest Service.?

Please select NO-grazing option. Please accept permanent closing of allotments waived, surrendered, or purchased out of grazing.