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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I was a resident of northern Utah from 1987 to 1991, graduating from Weber State University in 1989 and frequently visited this magnificent area and other USFS areas in Utah. Coming from the Pisgah and Nantahala Forest area, I was surprised and disturbed to see the impact on the environment and on the quality of my experiences in some of the regions under your protection due to livestock grazing. Even trail maintainers here must use hand powered tools for maintenance in designated Wilderness areas.

With climate change already impacting every region of our country, I would like to see protection afforded to this area that minimizes the negative effect of livestock grazing on the native fauna and flora. Please consider the following:

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

*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 for your consideration.