

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/22/2023 11:30:59 PM

First name: Kirk

Last name: Keil

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I believe that livestock grazing in the High Uinta Wilderness should be banned in order to protect native wildlife, restore the degraded watershed, and enhance opportunities for an increasingly rare Wilderness experience.

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.

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.

While I support the no grazing option as it is best for the wildlife, watersheds, recreation, and the Wilderness, the Forest Service should at a minimum close any sheep grazing allotment if the permit is waived back to the Forest Service.?