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Title:

Comments: I have concerns about the draft EIS as it currently stands.

First, the High Uintas Wilderness should be dedicated to its native wildlife, precisely because it is a Wilderness. 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 with damage to riparian zones especially, 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.

As it stands, 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. In places where grazing is good for a rangeland or grassland ecosystem, let that grazing be done by wild native species that are reclaiming their native range.

In addition to considerations for bighorn, killing native predators to protect sheep or cows should heavily curtailed if domestic livestock grazing is allowed to continue at all. 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. Wilderness does not exist to protect ranching; it exists for the wild.

Please 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, to ease the area back into full wilderness and healthy habitation by wild native species.

Thank you for your time and consideration.