

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/23/2023 10:25:02 AM

First name: Dan

Last name: Morgan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I see that your Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) selects as the preferred alternatives of two: maintain the status quo and rejects no grazing. It is obvious to me that The choice is simple: the decision should end grazing in the High Uintas Wilderness in order to protect native wildlife, restore the degraded watershed, and enhance opportunities for an increasingly rare Wilderness experience.

The High Uintas Wilderness should be dedicated to its native wildlife. I believe that no livestock grazing should be eliminated so as to not compete with wildlife for food or space or to spread disease to native species.

Remember that John Muir correctly called sheep "locusts on hooves". 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. It is clear to me that this means grazing by livestock should be eliminated from Wilderness entirely.

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. And cows are the most environmentally damaging species on the face of the earth and should be banned for the wilderness. Note that cows belch environmentally harming methane, that their digestive system sare extremely inefficient and their feces requires much biological degradation to become indolent to the environment. Cows consume more water than any other species and their body weight (due to domestication) is much more that their hooves can bear and they therefore cause damage to the pasture the trod upon.

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 of these comments.

Dan Morgan