

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/23/2023 9:13:17 PM

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Comments: Years of extensive grazing by domestic sheep has displaced native wildlife, led to persecution of predators like bears, coyotes, and mountain lions, marred the landscape, compromised water quality, and negatively impacted visitors seeking solitude and an authentic Wilderness experience.

Killing native predators to protect sheep or cows should be prohibited if domestic livestock grazing is allowed to continue and some honest recognition of this problem on your part would be appreciated.

Over the past couple of decades, bighorns from a nearby reintroduction effort have found their way into the High Uintas Wilderness and a nascent herd is becoming reestablished on its eastern end where domestic sheep grazing ended years ago. But the future of the bighorn herd and its ability to recolonize its native range across the High Uintas is in doubt because much of the rest of the bighorn range is filled with domestic sheep that carry disease fatal to the bighorns.

Grazing by domestic sheep and cows compromises the High Uintas watersheds, fouls the lakes and streams, and severely degrades the Wilderness. Grazing should be curtailed to meet the public's interest in protecting the High Uintas for wildlife and as a part of our core rampart against our society's accelerated damage of the nation's land. The Wilderness Act was written and enacted to protect our planet from us.

The big glaring problem here is that the Wilderness Act says leave these designated areas to nature. Grazing sheep is destructive to the very native environment the Act protects. Grazing livestock in any designated Wilderness is a violation of the Act and just plain short sighted. As our planet continues to groan under the burden of humanity and its overuse of every resource one of the few things we can do is to leave some areas native and as pristine as possible. Domestic animal grazing in the Wilderness does not fit this picture. Removing grazers now will allow these sections of the designated space to recover and support native animals and support hope for a better future for all of us.