

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/24/2023 7:32:35 AM

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Comments: The High Uintas Wilderness, like all designated Wilderness areas, should be preserved untrammelled for the wildlife that call it home and for visitors who seek to appreciate nature. I am against grazing by livestock in such an area. Grazing of sheep and cattle risks fouling lakes and streams, draws down the height of grasses, and degrades the Wilderness area for both wildlife and visitors, and grazing of sheep in particular threatens the recovering native bighorn sheep by reducing the most nutrient-rich grasses.

If livestock grazing is allowed at all, it should be limited to areas well away from wildlife, so as to avoid the spread of disease and to avoid imposing stress on wild species for food and habitat. Additionally, if grazing of domestic livestock is allowed at all, it must not come at the expense of native predators. Predators are crucial parts of any ecosystem, and grazing should not be allowed to create a situation that pits ranchers against predators or threatens them with harassment from humans or harm from traps or weapons. I am concerned that the SDEIS does not disclose how many native mountain lions, black bears, or coyotes might be killed in the High Uintas Wilderness to protect domestic sheep and does not address how grazing might affect the recovery of threatened species like grizzlies and wolves.

For all of these reasons, I urge you to support the no grazing option, as it is the option most compatible with Wilderness as a haven for wildlife, watersheds, and the appreciation of nature. At the very least, the Forest Service should close any sheep grazing allotment if the permit is waived back to the Forest Service.