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Organization:

Title:

Comments: The High Uintas Wilderness deserves protection for numerous reasons. This requires greatly reducing and then eliminating sheep grazing in this area of Ashley National Forest.

For several years (in the 1990's) I volunteered one week with the Passport in Time archeology project in the Sheep Creek area of Ashley National Forest, as did a couple of friends of mine. (I still list these projects as some of my all time favorite vacations!) The "dig" was designed to articulate the area below an outcrop, where natives had camped as they hunted on this rare east/west route. The project began after an Utah hunter and his wife discovered projectile points while scouting deer migration routes for his Fall hunt. They turned out to be archaic points dating back several thousand years, not the expected hundreds of years. We found more on our dig, and some of the points are now displayed at the museum in Flaming Gorge. No doubt there are more artifacts in this area, which needs our protection.

This area needs to be preserved for native wildlife including big horn sheep, bears, and coyotes. The big horn sheep herds will be able to increase as grazing of other sheep is eliminated.

This area needs to be preserved for the growth of native plant species and for the protection of our precious water resources. We're told "It all runs downstream," referring to our city's drainage system, asking us to keep it clean! This holds true for the High Uintas also!

This year has taught us all that we need to invest in our natural resources, protect our environment, and plan for drought conditions. If we do not, the climate will change even more drastically. No area is too insignificant as we address this issue, which must be done on all fronts. Additionally, Utah's population growth requires us to protect all water resources, as well as our recreational resources.

It seems obvious that we need to opt for NO GRAZING in the High Uintas.

Thank you for your time and attention to this urgent matter.