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First name: Keith

Last name: Hammond

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I grew up in Utah in a ranching town, and I understand very well that livestock grazing is a longtime traditional use of our public lands. There are places where it belongs and places where it doesn't. It's well documented that domestic sheep spread disease to native bighorn sheep, and a Wilderness Area, by statutory definition, is a place where the Earth and its community of life -- the native ecosystem -- are untrammelled by the activities of man. Now that bighorn are back in the High Uintas, their reestablishment should take priority over domestic sheep grazing, and marginal or little-used allotments should be retired. I agree generally with the following points raised by Wilderness Watch. Please keep me informed as to your decision. Thanks.

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The High Uintas Wilderness should be dedicated to its native wildlife. 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, 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.

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.

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.?

Best regards,

Keith Hammond