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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Thursday, August 24, 2023

Susan Eickhoff

Forest Supervisor:

Ashley National Forest

Supervisor's Office

355 North Vernal Avenue

Vernal, UT 84078

and

David C. Whittekiend

Supervisor's Office

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

857 West South Jordan Parkway

South Jordan, UT 84095

Subject: Protect fragile, high elevation alpine basins in the High Uintas Wilderness from domestic sheep grazing -  
- High Uintas Wilderness Domestic Sheep Analysis Project (Ashley and UWC National Forests) #44503

To Ashley National Forest Supervisor Susan Eickhoff, Duchesne/Roosevelt Ranger District Ranger Kristy Groves, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest Supervisor David C. Whittekiend, and Evanston-Mountain View Ranger District Ranger Justin Robinson:

I strongly urge the U.S. Forest Service to adopt the High Uintas Wilderness Domestic Sheep Analysis Project's Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement's no grazing option. Please end grazing in the High Uintas Wilderness in order to protect native wildlife and the fragile, high elevation alpine basins of the High Uintas Wilderness from domestic sheep grazing, restore the degraded watershed, and enhance opportunities for an increasingly rare Wilderness experience.

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 Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (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.

I support the no grazing option as it is best for the wildlife, watersheds, recreation, and the Wilderness. At the very least, the U.S. Forest Service should close any sheep grazing allotment if the permit is waived back to the Forest Service.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,  
Christopher Lish  
San Rafael, CA