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Comments: While I lived in Idaho for thirteen years, I did a lot of hiking in wilderness areas. Whenever I came across domesticated sheep grazing there, I was shocked by the wreckage of wildflowers and other natural plants where the sheep had passed. No such damage was evident in wild areas where sheep had not grazed.

I'm aware that wild animals do damage wild flora, especially when they become more numerous than the land can easily support. That is why wolves were reintroduced to wilderness areas. Elk and mule deer herds had grown too large without the natural control that wolves supplied and human hunters could not adequately supply.

Sheep herds are of course protected from wolves, and their numbers are kept gathered for protection. This concentration of sheep causes extreme overgrazing where they pass, and sheep also eat down to the ground before moving on, so the damage they cause is thorough.

The aridity of western lands in summertime does not allow the recovery of deeply grazed land in a healthy time frame. Domestic herds are much better grazed in the eastern United States.

Herds of domestic sheep should not be allowed in wilderness pasture land.