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Comments: As someone who spent many of my younger years camping and hiking throughout the Uinta's, I am very concerned about protecting the fragile ecosystem in the High Uinta's Wilderness. Sadly, years of extensive grazing by domestic sheep has displaced native wildlife, led to persecution of predators like bears, coyotes, and mountain lions, marred the landscape, compromised water quality, and negatively impacted visitors seeking solitude in this Wilderness.

It's my understanding that bighorns from a nearby reintroduction effort have found their way into the High Uinta's Wilderness, and a herd is becoming reestablished on its eastern end where domestic sheep grazing ended years ago. I believe the choice is simple, end grazing in the High Uinta's Wilderness in order to protect native wildlife, restore the degraded watershed, and enhance opportunities for an increasingly rare Wilderness experience.

Grazing by domestic sheep and cows compromises the High Uinta's watersheds and fouls the lakes and streams. Grazing should be curtailed to meet the public's interest in protecting the High Uinta's for wildlife and to preserve the Wilderness experience for future generations. The High Uinta's 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.

If domestic livestock grazing is allowed to continue, killing native predators to protect sheep or cows should be prohibited. The SDEIS fails to disclose how many native predators-such as black bears, mountain lions, or coyotes-are killed in the High Uinta's 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.

Please support the no-grazing option as it is best for the wildlife, watersheds, recreation, and the Wilderness. As a minimum, the Forest Service should close any sheep grazing allotment if the permit is waived back to the Forest Service. Thank you for your consideration.