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Title:

Comments: Regarding the grazing of domestic sheep in the high Unitas Wilderness. I would like the Forest Service to choose Alternative 1 for the following reasons:

While I understand you cannot stop grazing just because an area is designated wilderness, it is incumbent on you to manage the lands we pay you to manage in the best interest of the American public at large, not just a single permittee.

Bighorn sheep inhabit the area and it is quite possible for domestic sheep to transmit disease to the wild bighorns which if not deadly to the herd, at least very costly to try various attempts to ensure viability of the herd.

With the vegetative productivity lower today than it was in the 1960s, the management that has been done is inadequate. Since lowering the numbers would alleviate it some, there is still the same costs to us taxpayers to manage it and we would be getting less in return (realizing it already costs us many times more to manage than what we get back in the low fees we charge).

With increased vegetative matter more carbon will be sequestered, soil moisture will increase, runoff and erosion from rains will decrease, more water will be stored in the aquifer below, and other wildlife species will increase in numbers.