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First name: Robert

Last name: Fink

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear US Forest Service,

Livestock grazing in the High Uinta Wilderness significantly degrades this ecosystem and spoils the wilderness recreation aspect for this special piece of public land.

I traverse sections of the High Uinta Wilderness every year and the experience is negatively impacted by large flocks of sheep.

-Twice I have been charged buy large sheep dogs and used pepper spray to prevent being bitten. No shepherd was nearby to prevent this possible significant safety threat to me.

-Wildlife is seldom seen in areas where these sheep graze and their uncontrolled dogs are present.

-I have seen areas so overgrazed that there is little vegetation remaining and the soil is vulnerable to erosion.

-Large shepherd camps along trails making permanent scars by burning wood on the edge of high alpine habitat with the large flocks present ruins the recreation experience.

-Flock of sheep driven through our camping sites by shepherds without any concern for backpackers or hikers.

As the population of Utah grows the High Uinta Wilderness will be an ever more important recreation resource and critical wildlife habitat. Compromising this valuable resource by grazing is not in the best interest of the citizens.

I am requesting that all grazing be eliminated or significantly reduced in the High Uinta Wilderness.

Sincerely,

Bob Fink