

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/27/2023 11:49:13 PM

First name: Paul

Last name: Moss

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please adopt Alternative 1, which the agency has designated as the Environmentally Preferred Alternative, which would end domestic sheep grazing in the High Uintas.

The alpine meadows of the High Uintas Wilderness on the Utah-Wyoming border are so overgrazed that a 2020 scientific study shows that ecological damage in the High Uintas as a result of domestic sheep is severe, and vegetation productivity is even lower today than it was in the 1960s. In addition, domestic sheep are driven into alpine habitats occupied by bighorn sheep, amplifying the likelihood that wild bighorns will contract deadly livestock diseases that could wipe out the entire bighorn sheep population in the Uinta Mountains.

The Forest Service should not continue the same existing domestic sheep grazing that is severely damaging the fragile alpine meadows of the High Uintas Wilderness and threatens the survival of the native bighorn sheep. This is an unacceptable use of these sensitive public lands.

Please halt further domestic sheep leasing in the High Uintas Wilderness.