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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Questions and Comments I have concerning this SDEIS:

1)I have driven through the area on my travels to Moose, WY over the years. While I have not hiked in these wild places, I hold them in high esteem for their rugged beauty and their ability to thrive and sustain life for millennia.

2)The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (SDEIS) evaluates the future of 10 domestic sheep allotments. At most, ten (10) ranchers would be affected by this decision and about 10,000 sheep (although the sheep's fate is sealed and would be sealed regardless of where they grazed). How many wild animals, including bighorn sheep, bears, coyotes, and mountain lions are affected?

3)How many native predators-such as black bears, mountain lions, or coyotes-are killed each year in the High Uintas Wilderness to protect domestic sheep?

4)How does sheep grazing affect the potential for recovering native wildlife such as wolves and grizzly bears.

5)If a stated goal is to help bighorn sheep reestablish, then why does USFS not state the cause of harm to bighorn sheep: namely domestic sheep. Much of the bighorn range is filled with domestic sheep that carry pneumonia that is fatal to the bighorns.

6)Killing native predators is not a solution to protecting bighorn sheep or any wildlife species for that matter. One of the many enduring problems with wildlife "management" is allowing wildlife populations to expand by removing natural predators. In this proposal, the Forest Service endorses the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources' (UDWR) approach to maintaining bighorn numbers by killing native predators, especially mountain lions, among other tactics including augmenting the bighorn population with translocations and by constantly modifying the habitat. These are human-based solutions to human-caused problems.

7)Where is the data and analysis that would most definitely show the damage wrought by years of extensive grazing by domestic sheep to native wildlife? This data would include including killing of predators like bears, coyotes, and mountain lions; damage to the landscape and soils; and damage to riparian areas and water quality. Furthermore, a citizen's ability to seek a meaningful relationship with the wilderness is definitely reduced by sheep grazing in the wilderness.

The decision I support is to end grazing in the High Uintas Wilderness. I do so to protect native wildlife, restore the degraded watershed, and improve citizens' chances to have a meaningful relationship with wilderness. By "meaningful" I mean simple and pure and unadulterated by humans. There are at most 10 ranchers affected - assuming one rancher per allotment, a very small number of ranchers with outsized affect on the fate of wildlife, water and land. I support voluntary retirement of grazing permits. This gives the ranchers the opportunity to seek compensation from conservation interests before the allotments are permanently closed, permanently and in perpetuity.

Thank you for your consideration.