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Comments: Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment. My primary concerns include impacts to wildlife populations with the proposed grazing activity.

As noted, impacts to bighorn sheep populations are the primary concern. As indicated by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, disease transfer between domestic and wild sheep has been the primary cause of population decline for wild sheep populations in Washington in recent years. Options 1 and 2 do not adequately address these potential damages to native wildlife that depend on National Forest lands. Understanding the values of the USFS, I would therefore prefer option 4, with option 3 being second to that.

As can be seen throughout Washington grazing allotments, current wolf depredation mitigation measures are lacking. Killing ESA listed native wildlife that depredate on privately owned livestock grazing on public land should be avoided. The best way to achieve that is of course to not graze livestock in wolf pack occupied allotments until better protection measures can be implemented. Option 3 is the preferred option for wolves and grizzly bears, should they arrive.

Lastly, the report indicates that state endangered cascade red fox do not occur in these allotments. The USFS needs to review current data and explicitly determine how these fox might be impacted and what mitigation options there are. Explicit data from the University of Washington shows resident cascade red fox present in the Manastash, Naches, Nile, and Rattlesnake allotments and likely present in the Swauk allotment. Option 3 is preferred until adequate assessment of the impact on cascade red fox can be completed.