

From: Evans Lodge <mailto:ekl9@students.calvin.edu>
To: FS-comments-rocky-mountain-san-juan-columbine
Subject: Comment on Weminuche Landscape Grazing Analysis EIS
Date: Thursday, March 24, 2016 12:07:22 PM

Matt,

I worked in Lake City, CO, from June, 2011, through August, 2012, and have hiked in the Weminuche and surrounding areas extensively, regularly encountering sheep herders during my journeys. The history of grazing outlined in the Weminuche Landscape Grazing Analysis cites a continual decrease in grazing (and an increase in regulation of grazing activity), but the need to improve conditions in isolated areas *and* limit contact between domestic and bighorn sheep clearly remains. As demands for wool and lamb continue to decrease in future years, it only seems reasonable to continue forward with your "Preferred Alternative" (adaptive management) to increase the speed and flexibility with which the Columbine Ranger District can respond to problem areas. I am particularly interested in the potential for disease transmission between domestic and bighorn sheep populations (especially due to the crash of bighorn populations throughout the 20th century), and would hope that future grazing regulation closely follows contact between the two species. As a backpacker and mountain biker in the area, as well, I would hope that denuded landscapes be clean enough for enjoyment by individuals and groups seeking outdoor recreation experience. All of this requires extensive monitoring by the Ranger District, and I agree with your proposal that adaptive management practices will be best suited to continue improving the lot of both human, domestic, and wild animal and plant populations in the area.

Thank you for your time,
Evans Lodge