

From: Ryan <mailto:durangorpm@msn.com>
To: FS-comments-rocky-mountain-san-juan-columbine
Subject: sheep grazing on public lands
Date: Friday, February 19, 2016 12:28:02 PM

Hello- My name is Ryan Montgomery. I am a small business owner and teacher in Durango.

I am an avid backpacker, mountain biker, and hiker.

I spend many days each year on public lands and have encountered sheep grazing many times.

- 1) Sheep herder's dogs are aggressive and frightening. They should not be allowed to only have dogs watching the herd unattended.
- 2) The sheep have a negative impact on the landscape and ecosystem- especially other animals and plant life in the sensitive high alpine environment.
- 3) Public lands are just that, public and not for the benefit of a few ranchers at the expense of the natural environment nor the public's recreational activities.
- 4) Public lands should be closed to grazing.
- 5) I have had several negative encounters with ranchers who feel entitled to the land and feel that they have the right to dictate how others use it (they blocked an entire road-the road that leads to Highland Mary Lakes-to load sheep onto a truck for a long time and impeded travel of all other users, as just one example.

Public lands belong to everyone and no one.

Thank you.

Ryan Montgomery