



WILDLIFE CONFLICT RESOLUTION — SAN JUAN RANGE, CO

Endlich Mesa Grazing Allotment Agreement

Where conflicts between livestock and wildlife are prolonged and intractable, the National Wildlife Federation believes that public land grazing retirements can provide an equitable solution for ranchers and wildlife interests. In coordination with federal land managers, we negotiate with livestock ranchers to retire public land livestock grazing allotments that experience chronic conflict with wildlife, especially grizzly bears, wolves, bison and bighorn sheep. This market-based approach recognizes the economic value of public land livestock grazing permits and fairly compensates ranchers for their public land grazing leases. This approach has proven a successful model across the west in resolving conflicts between livestock and at-risk wildlife.

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The Opportunity

The Endlich Mesa domestic sheep grazing allotment is located in the southern portion of the spectacular San Juan Range, 20 miles northeast of Durango. Endlich Mesa is within the stunning Weminuche Wilderness, Colorado's largest wilderness area, and contains the Florida River watershed, which provides the city of Durango's municipal water. The allotment has been permitted by a local sheep ranching family for decades, and is just a few short miles from the Weminuche herd of bighorn sheep, one of only three herds in the state with a Tier 1 status classification by Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Unfortunately, domestic sheep carry a number of diseases that can and often do, decimate entire herds of Bighorn sheep.

The National Wildlife Federation has successfully negotiated a financial agreement with the rancher to waive his grazing permit on Endlich Mesa. This grazing allotment retirement removes the risk of contact between these domestic sheep and Bighorns and is a significant first step in eliminating the risk of disease transmission between domestic sheep and Bighorns across the entire San Juan range.



WHERE: **South San Juan Mountains, San Juan National Forest, Colorado**

NEAREST TOWN: **Durango, CO**

CONFLICT: **Domestic sheep in conflict with a native herd of Bighorn sheep**

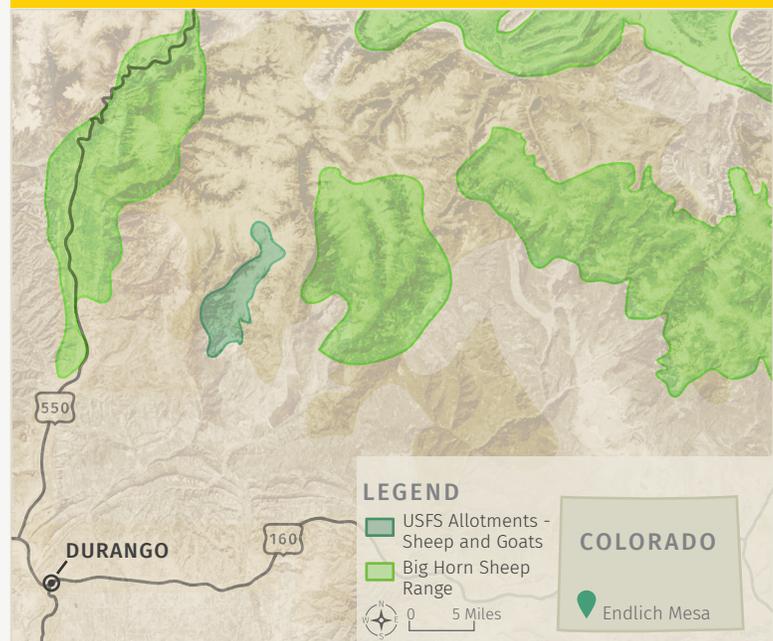
ACRES: **11,150**

DOMESTIC SHEEP REMOVED: **659 AUMs***

RETIREMENT DATE: **February 2020**

TOTAL ESTIMATED PRICE: **\$82,500**

PUBLIC LANDS, GRAZING ALLOTMENTS, & BIGHORN SHEEP



*AUMS (ANIMAL UNIT MONTHS) IS A STANDARD MEASUREMENT OF THE AMOUNT OF FORAGE TO FEED A COW/CALF OR FIVE SHEEP IN ONE MONTH. IN THE CASE OF ENDLICH MESA, 775 EWES AND THEIR LAMBS WERE GRAZED ON THE ALLOTMENT FOR 2.75 MONTHS.

PHOTO CREDITS

Page 1: Landscape (J. Buickerood); bighorn sheep (both Bob Schillereff);
Page 2: bighorn sheep on mountain (R. Weyer)