

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 11/27/2021 1:51:50 AM

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Comments: Dear GMUG planning staff, On Oct. 31st I emailed certain GMUG biologists and hydrologists about my concerns regarding livestock grazing impacts and will repeat that information here so that it will be part of official public comments. Based many conversations with USFS biologists from Region 2 and Region 3 over the past couple of years, from seeing first hand the condition of riparian areas across many locations on the GMUG, and from published research, livestock grazing, cattle in particular, is one of the top negative impacts to riparian areas; grazing is also one the top limiting factors for being able to bring back one of the draft plan's key Focal Species, beaver. Without riparian vegetation to provide food and dam building materials, the beaver cannot survive and provide all the incredible habitat and hydrologic benefits they are known for.

I provided a link of a fantastic video produced by the BLM that documents the amazing recovery that took place over 30 years to several Nevada creeks after the landowner changed grazing practices.

Creating Miracles in the Desert: Restoring Dixie Creek

This is a very similar story to one that's well documented in a USDA Report - Ranching, Riparian Revegetation, and Beaver Colonization in Elko County, Nevada 2019 by Susan Charnley, who just spoke at the Colorado Beaver Summit on Oct. 22. This information can help craft BMPs and goals for the GMUG Plan.

I contributed significant time and effort to drafting the Water Resources Section of the letter submitted by American Rivers on Nov. 24th and thus won't repeat information provided on how the draft GMUG Plan can include objectives to help improve the forests' resilience to climate change impacts that threaten water resources for people and wildlife.