



# COUNTY OF SISKIYOU

## COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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October 26, 2016

Stephanie McMorris, Rangeland Management Specialist  
Klamath National Forest  
Salmon Scott River Ranger District  
11263 North Highway 3  
Fort Jones, CA 96027

**Subject: Middle Tompkins and Lake Mountain Grazing Allotments Comment Period**

Dear Ms. McMorris:

The Siskiyou County Range Advisory Board and Department of Natural Resources would like to provide the following comments, and attached Siskiyou County Grazing Policy, to the Lake Mountain and Middle Tompkins Grazing Allotment Environmental Assessment (EA). We would also like to request that during development of future management practices and site visits to these and other allotments, the Siskiyou County's Natural Resource Policy Specialist be contacted. The Range Advisory Board intends to play an active role in future rangeland planning activities that occur on public lands and assist the Forest in evaluating site conditions on the allotments.

We would like to provide our general support of the Klamath National Forest's (Forest) efforts on this Project, the EA, and the Proposed Action, which increases cattle numbers on the Middle Tompkins Allotment and includes provisions to fence around Lookout Spring and install a 100 gallon watering trough. We understand, as outlined in the Proposed Action, that the Lake Mountain Allotment boundary will be reduced by 4,697 acres and the Middle Tompkins Allotment will be increased by 2,034 acres, which was coordinated with the current permittee of the Allotments. We commend the Forest for coordinating with the Permittee on these efforts, and encourage you to continue doing so in the future.

Livestock grazing plays an integral role in maintaining natural resources, and Siskiyou County livestock owners and managers have an extensive and long history of sustaining these resources and preserving the important landscapes and ecosystems of the County. Please refer to pages 3 and 4 of the attached Siskiyou County Grazing Policy for information regarding scientific studies that outline the importance of livestock grazing. These include livestock grazing benefits to wildlife habitat, biodiversity of plants, water resources and water quality, prevention of catastrophic wildfire, and control of invasive species. Please incorporate this

information from the Grazing Policy as part of the comments provided by the Range Advisory Board.

As was stated in the November 07, 2013, comment letter from the County's Natural Resources Department on the Scoping document for this EA, when developing grazing plans and environmental documents, please keep in mind that excessive monitoring and mitigation actions do not always yield beneficial effects. We understand that certain measures must be taken to ensure that sensitive plants and species as well as riparian areas be protected, but often the requirements outlined by federal and state agencies make it very difficult to manage livestock on public lands, let alone meet the requirements of the permits. The Range Board is concerned that the Forest does not have the staffing required to meet all the needs and essential functions of its vast Range Program. It generally takes several years to produce a final environmental document for a given allotment, and implementing unachievable requirements is ineffective for both the permittees and the Forest's Range Program. To this end, this is part of the reason that the Range Advisory Board is becoming more active in public grazing activities, to both assist the Forest in their efforts and ensure that the needs of permittees are met. We would also like to offer that the Range Advisory Board is willing to assist the Forest in improving and developing its Range Program in the future.

We appreciate the opportunity to participate in and comment on the development of this project. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Elizabeth Nielsen, Siskiyou County Natural Resource Policy Specialist at 530-842-8012, or by email at [enielsen@co.siskiyou.ca.us](mailto:enielsen@co.siskiyou.ca.us).

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Nielsen  
Natural Resource Policy Specialist