To whom it may concern,

I am writing due to some concerns with the draft for the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests draft for Rangeland Management. Many people I care about will be affected by the draft including my father, extended family and friends. These National Forest Service permits allow livestock producers affordable feed. Without these permit, many producers would have to downsize their herds and could lose the ability to have a profitable ranch.

Through the years, my siblings and I have spent time working with our parents on several National Forest improvement projects. I have helped put in water tanks to provide clean fresh water for wildlife and livestock. Wildlife and livestock must have water to survive, these tanks help them graze feed in areas that would be further to access. The availability of fresh clean water can reduce the distances traveled to reach feed from water and this will reduce the feed requirement for the animals.

As the daughter of a permit holder, I have seen my father and the rest of the permit work hard to continually improve range conditions. Their livelihood depends on the ability to graze their livestock on the National Forest year after year. If they mismanaged the land, it would result is desertification and the land would no longer be useful. This is why they work hard to care for the land so it is there for their generation, my generation, and my future children's generation. My father and other cattle men are stewards of the land who have the best interest of their livestock and the range in mind. I've seen ranchers sell cattle in drought years and keep back extra heifers in good years, but at the end of the day a good rancher will do what he has to do to protect his herd and the lands that provide for them.

* Chapter 1: There are no comments in chapter 1 about how properly managed grazing has improved rangeland conditions. Ranchers experience and today's advanced range management technology and research are the best possible steward combination for public lands.
* Chapter 5: Using stubble height as a trend indicator is not an accurate measurement. An adjustable management plan based on plant recovery should be used.

In conclusion, grazing public lands should be displayed with a higher value due to the impact it will have. The men and women on the ground who have stewarded these lands for many years should be a part of the conversation about the future plan.

Thank you,

Lindsey Todd

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