

COMMENS RELATED TO MANCOS RANGELAND MANAGEMENT, SAN JUAN NATIONAL FOREST

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Marilyn Colyer, 43393 Road M, Mancos Colorado 81328

I have several concerns and commens related to the Mancos Rangeland Management proposed plan.

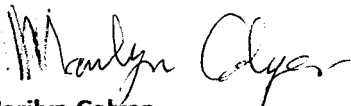
- 1. During exceptionally dry weather livestock numbers should be reduced and the permittees should be notified in advance of grazing reduction. If conditions improve with precipitation the numbers can be readjusted. If by May grass growth is minimal and moisture is minimal numbers should be reduced to no grazing or to half AUMs, depending on grass growth in shaded portions of the rangeland.**
- 2. I see no need to specify that any unit, such as Gold Run, will be grazed by cows rather than sheep. Can you indicate that the high altitude units are open to sheep or cattle, depending on who is applying for grazing. We have very few large herd sheep grazers here. Sheep herds have a herders so fencing is not an issue.**
- 3. There are parts of all units where water is scarce. The forest grazing lands need to have more reservoirs constructed. These should be done to reduce travel by livestock and to help keep livestock distributed throughout the unit. There are many years when free water is barely available in places but there is still plenty of forage. The forest service and permittee could split the cost of reservoir construction.**
- 4. Concerning damage to water sites, such as springs, existing ponds, and ditches I have not seen any significant damage to these sites from livestock usage.**
- 5. With the current rate of cattle stocking I have not seen overgrazing in the four units being discussed. The animals come on rather late, after early growth, and during most years the rains allow grass growth to be maintained. In fact during some years much grass with seed heads remain by autumn, even in the meadows where a heavier grazing occurs.**

The forest service practices Multiple Use: livestock grazing, logging, harvest of firewood and poles, mining, recreation such as hiking and horseback riding and camping, hunting, birdwatching, mushrooming, and berry picking. All in all that concept of multiple use makes these lands not only well used but also well cared for since all of the uses have regulations.

For me, my family, and many of my friends the forest service lands are our most valuable resource. Access is adequate but please do not close any more roads. There are trails and I would like to see more historic trails maintained.

Thank you for allowing all of us to comment on management of these lands.

Sincerely,


Marilyn Colyer