



JACKSON COUNTY

Oregon

Office of County Counsel

Joel C. Benton
County Counsel

10 South Oakdale, Room 214
Medford, OR 97501
Phone: (541) 774-6160
Fax: (541) 774-6722
bentonjc@jacksoncounty.org
www.jacksoncounty.org

February 14, 2020

VIA FACSIMILE ONLY TO: (530) 493-1796

Jeremy Sullens
ATTN: Kaleigh Maze
Happy Camp/Oak Knoll Ranger District
63822 Highway 96
P.O. Box 377
Happy Camp, CA 96039

RE: Comments on Oak Knoll Range Project Environmental Assessment (EA)

Dear Mr. Sullens:

Jackson County, Oregon supports the proposed action of authorizing cattle grazing on the National Forest System ("NFS") lands within the East Beaver, Hornbrook, and Ash Creek Allotments. These allotments were previously identified in the Klamath Nation Forest Plan to be suitable for commercial livestock grazing. The proposed action is in keeping with this previous determination and supports the known public demand for grazing in these allotments.

Additionally, cattle grazing on NFS lands provides benefits, which would not be available under the No Action alternative described in the EA. First, cattle grazing removes potential fuels from wild fires. As you are aware, Southern Oregon and Northern California have suffered from extreme wildfires during several of the past summers. If the lands are not grazed by cattle or other livestock as would be the case in the No Action alternative, the vegetation which would have otherwise feed cattle will instead be available to fuel yet another summer or summers of severe wildfires. Second, cattle grazing on NSF has a positive impact on the local economy of Jackson County and the surrounding area. Many of our local ranchers rely on grazing allotments on NFS lands. Not permitting grazing on NSF lands, as would occur under the No Action alternative, would significant hinder these ranchers' contributions to our local economy.

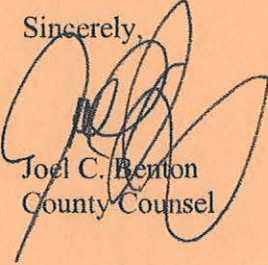
Comments on Oak Knoll Range Project Environmental Assessment

February 14, 2020

Page 2 of 2

As such, Jackson County, Oregon strongly supports the proposed action as set forth in the Oak Knoll Range Project Draft EA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Joel C. Benton", is written over the typed name and title.

Joel C. Benton
County Counsel

cc: Jackson County Board of Commissioners