

ATTN: Levi Broyles
Paonia District Ranger
P.O. Box 1030
Paonia, CO 81428

RE: Paonia Winter Wildlife Habitat Improvement Project (PWWHIP) #62711

Levi,

As you are undoubtedly aware, the proposed burn area on McClure Pass and along Huntsman Ridge is entirely within my USFS grazing allotment. It is essential for me to know well in advance if and when the prescribed burn activities will affect my grazing rotation and the health of my livestock and would like to request ample notice and a working agreement so I have time to plan for contingencies.

I am supportive of prescribed burns in portions of Township 11S Range 89W, Sections 3, 4 & 5 as they are very overgrown with Gambel oak & serviceberry. The areas where it would be most beneficial to the wildlife are in Sections 3, 4 & 5 from Drift Creek East to Lee Creek. I am very concerned about the other regions shown on the map and believe they are unsuitable for burning because of the vast area of healthy aspen & spruce with very little Gambel oak and serviceberry. The area East of Lee Creek has one of the healthiest old-stand aspen groves in the East Muddy drainage and it would be a shame to lose it. If the areas of concern with too much undergrowth cannot be contained to save these healthy, essential aspen and spruce pockets, they should not be burned. Please also carefully consider the possibility of damaging adjacent private properties.

Respectfully,

Joe H. Sperry