

September 18, 2025

Pike-San Isabel National Forests & Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands  
Supervisor's Office, in care of the Grasslands Plan Revision Team,  
2840 Kachina Drive  
Pueblo, CO 81008

Dear Grasslands Plan Revision Team,

Comment Number 1

I was first apprised by a grazing permit holder on the Comanche National Grasslands of the process for the management plan revision for the Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands in August 2025. The Draft Assessment for the plan revision boasts of public engagement for this process. Having participated in five zoom chats (August 26 (12 participants), September 4 (18), 8 (15), and 9 (12) 2025), the total number of participants was 57 of which 16 were private individuals. The only chat session wherein private citizens outnumbered Forest Service employees was held on September 16, 2025, where 25 residents of southeastern Colorado, most of whom were grazing permit holders, engaged eight Forest Service employees.

The problematic technical issues involved with a Zoom Chat represent a lack of personal engagement with the public and many individuals are shut out of the "conversation." In my opinion, this method is totally unacceptable and ineffective as a means of reaching residents in southeastern Colorado and southwestern Kansas. The ratio of Forest Service employees to nongovernmental participants indicated a lack of enthusiastic participation by the public at large, not to mention earnestly interested parties like grazing permit holders, farmers, ranchers and other businesses within reasonable travel distance surrounding the Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands.

Lack of adequate, meaningful public engagement for such an important process compromises the integrity of the entire process from the beginning and if not adequately rectified throws into question the integrity of the Forest Service to undertake a revision of Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands management plan. The means by which the Forest Service has chosen to undertake a management plan revision indicate of a lack of interest in real, effective, public engagement. In that respect the American taxpayer is overpaying in such an effort and are receiving services from government employees that indicate a lack dedication to serving the public.

Respectfully

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