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Organization:

Title:

Comments: My comment is based on my experience as a farmer. When I was a teenager my parents decided to buy a farm. Before buying this farm we asked a friend of my fathers how we could go about running this farm without spending a great deal of money. My fathers friend was a fourth generation rancher. He told us to section off pastures for the rotation of the cattle. He told us that the cattle would destroy the pastures if they were left to graze too long. He also said that we should buy a horse our mule to collect the manure and store it for when we moved the cattle to another pasture. We would then spread the horse manure around the pasture and water. Now the purpose for the store above is to confirm that this is what we did. That along with a little work got us through seven years of raising cattle. Now since a fourth generation rancher taught us this one would one would have to wonder why all rancher wouldn't know this. Having said that, you are required to do an environmental impact study. Whether it be the growth and consumption of plants or damage and rejuvenation of soil or even the collection and consumption of water. Based on my experiences on the farm all would prove to favor the horse over the cow. To remove or even begin to discuss the removal of the horses before doing this makes no sense. What good is an impact study after you've already impacted. I've attached a page from an interview with a rancher named Doy Reidhead. At the top of the page to the right you will see green marker. If you read the sentences between the marks it's pretty clear that the horses did no damage to area before the cattle came and there's been clear evidence damage every since. If you spend any time in the forest at all, the difference between the areas where the horses are before the cattle are released is clear. Horse manure reseeds, cattle manure does not. Horses drink and eat far less than cattle. This I can say with out question due to the fact that I was responsible for feeding and watering both. Our one equine rejuvenated the damage done by seven head of cattle for seven years with no seeding or any other fertilizer. Why would you remove the animals that are doing all of that and replace them with animals that will only cause destruction.