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First name: Michele

Last name: Dieterich

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Please accept this objection to the proposed melding of alternatives for the East Paradise grazing allotment plan. I incorporate my previous comments and the references included at that time. Please make them part of the public record.

Thank you for ending plans to open two of the grazing allotments in the area. All six should be made permanently vacant. As I mentioned in my comments, this area is frequented by grizzlies and increasing grazing area will increase livestock grizzly conflicts and put more bears in harms way, not to mention livestock.

I have commented on the plan and am concerned with your decision.

It would be best to vacate all 6 allotments to care for the bears. I mentioned and supported with references that public land grazing only supports 3% of beef consumed in the United States. There is no reason to subsidize this industry more, especially in deference to increasing tourism in the area on Yellowstone's border. One must also consider the danger to bears and people as the two encounter one another hiking near these allotments.

Early openings of these allotments will also put endangered grizzlies in danger. Cattle mortality will increase with the larkspur season and again, tempt grizzlies into areas for the easy and substantial food rewards of cattle carcasses. This has been shown, as during the hunting season in the Gravelles two years back, to increase hunter/grizzly conflict which again will be detrimental to grizzlies, not to mention hunters.

Again, you are subsidizing and favoring a group that is not a majority nor is the small fraction of the meat industry they provide essential to the human environment. Biodiversity is. The modified plan, though admirable that two allotments will remain vacant, is not enough to guard the resources that we cannot manufacture in other ways. Biodiversity, natural ecosystems and endangered species should take precedence in one of the largest intact ecosystems and wildland areas in the West. We can feed cattle in other ways. Please reconsider this decision and do not increase allotment timing or allow grazing in any of these allotments. The science does not support it nor does logic.

The issue is increased human grizzly conflict and increased grizzly mortality in violation of the Endangered Species Act. The resolution is to create no new allotments, keep all of the existing allotments vacant, and work to close them permanently.