

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 3/15/2024 6:00:00 AM

First name: Eli

Last name: Malouff

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Eli Malouff

US Forest Service

Gunnison District Ranger

216 N Colorado St.

Gunnison CO 81230

Subject: Rejection of Proposed Date Shifts in Lease Agreement

Dear Gunnison Ranger District,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed date shifts outlined in the lease agreements for Spring Creek and Almont Triangle Allotments. As a lessee, I believe that these changes would significantly impact our operations and create undue hardship.

The proposed modifications, which include altering the dates of the Almont Triangle Allotment from May 15th through July 5th to June 1st through July 15th and Spring Creek Allotment from June 16th through September 28th to July 1st through October 12th, conflict with our existing business plans and operational schedules. Our operations are intricately tied to seasonal cycles, environmental conditions, and market demand. Any deviation from the agreed-upon lease dates would disrupt our ability to effectively manage the leased land. We would like the grazing dates to remain May 15th through July 5th for the Almont Triangle Allotment and June 16th through September 28th for the Spring Creek Allotment.

We appreciate the Forest Service's commitment to efficient land management and recognize the need for periodic reviews. However, we believe that it is essential to maintain the existing grazing dates. The current grazing dates align with the natural cycles of vegetation growth and soil health. Altering these dates could disrupt the delicate balance that exists between livestock management and ecological sustainability. Also, our livestock's well-being depends on access to nutritious forage during specific seasons. Any alterations from the established grazing calendar will adversely affect their health, reproductive success, and overall productivity. It is essential for us to prioritize the welfare of our animals. If the proposed dates result in inadequate forage ability during critical periods, our livestock's growth and weight gain could be compromised. If we need to supplement feed during off-peak grazing times, it will increase our operational costs. Deviating from the current dates may mean selling livestock during less favorable market conditions, all impacting our financial returns. Overall, any alterations to the grazing lease dates should be carefully evaluated in terms of ecological impact, livestock health, and financial impact.

We remain committed to maintaining a positive working relationship and contributing to the sustainable use of our shared natural resources.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,

Eli Malouff