

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/5/2016 5:19:43 PM

First name: Larry

Last name: Sweat

Organization:

Title:

Comments: The new stubble height restrictions set in the new Forest Plan Revision are unreasonable. My ranch has utilized the Forest Service grazing land for over 50 years. Before this, my family and ranch lived on land that has since become property of the Forest Service. During my time as a permittee, I have experienced years when the stubble height never reaches the new plans required 6 to 8 inches even when the cattle don't graze these areas.

The new Forest Plan Revision does not allow enough access to our forests. As an allotment manager, I am required to maintain fences, grazing areas, and various water sources. These often require access to roads and trails that have already been blocked. By continuing to reduce the access I have to our forests, my ability to maintain healthy grazing allotments will be hindered.

In my years managing cattle on grazing allotments, I have seen the amount of timber harvested decrease. This has led to less growth on the forest floor and limitations to the cattle's movement throughout the forest. I see this as a less healthy forest as the vegetation is being stifled and the animals have less feed available. I also believe a healthier forest with correct timber harvesting practices will help limit damage and costs resulting from wildfires.

I believe the management of the forest should be left to the Forest Service Range Specialist and the permittee on a range specific basis.

In review of the new Forest Plan Revision, I can only support the No Action Alternative.