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Organization:

Title:

Comments: Colville National Forest Plan Revision Team

You might want to extend this comment period because the web sight is all jammed up and I can't read any comments to respond to nor make any comments. I am a Pend Oreille cattle man and I am quite discouraged with this whole deal. As I was celebrating the birth of this great country this weekend I couldn't help but think of our founding fathers. They fought to get free of a government that wouldn't listen to the people who were living on and caring for the land. It seems we have traveled full circle and once again we have people who don't live in the land forcing their ideas on us. They say they want to listen to the public so they perform this little ritual of a comment period but in fact they simply discount any comment that they don't agree with. I went to a meeting set up just for cattlemen who had questions about the plan and found that they wouldn't even acknowledge my question. And here is how they do it. First they write up a document that says cattle are ruining the planet by causing global warming and killing all the fish. Then they write up some alternatives that won't work. Then they ask you to comment about which of the alternatives you prefer or do not prefer. But what they don't do is allow you to ask a question about if what they are doing is morally right or ask if they have any proof that the watershed is actually being affected in the way they portray. The grazing section of this forest plan is in great need of fixing. The range management specialists have been trying to get it fixed but are being told that it will not be changed. If they don't even listen to their own employees about how to come up with a plan that works why would I think that my comment would be deemed worthy instead of not relevant.

So here is my question once again, (the one you wouldn't answer or even accept at your meeting). Is the grass stubble height guideline of 6 to 8 inches across the forest fair? I think it is morally wrong to set a "guideline" (standard) that will effectually remove all cattle from the forest over time because there is no way to muzzle a cow in a way that will keep it from eating blue grass that only grows to 8 inches high. I don't know if this will get into the comments or not. I have other comments but as I said the site is jammed. Steve Fountain