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Title:

Comments: I am commenting on the draft assessment reports in particular, the rangeland management section. I manage Harris and son's Stirrupbar ranch @ Crawford ,we run cattle on the dyer allotment in Gunnison national forest. We try hard to be good steward of the land work with all the other uses. The livestock grazing on the allotment is a key part of our operation. I have ran cattle on private ground and USFS allotments and in most ways it is easier on private ground in several ways, even though the up front cost is more expensive on private ground, the allotment will cost as much, improvements on allotment cost more to do, with government regulations and restrictions, and the improvement don't belong to you, they belong to the USFS for most everyone to use. an example would be water tanks, we put then in so cattle have fresh water and better utilize an area, also helps to keep cattle from using riparian areas. But they also provide wildlife fresh clean water, along with hunters and hikers. We clean trails and some road that all use, these things are done at are expense, although the USFS will put some money toward improvement, it does not cover all the cost. without grazing on the forest none of this will happen and I believe the public expects it at this point and most have no idea who is actually doing it and footing the bill for what also benefits the public. On private ground we do not deal with stubble height and utilization, but we do have to manage the ground so that it will keep producing for years to come, and you have to be flexible and make adjustments as needed . The public and the USFS need to realize that the permitties on allotments are not there to rape the land and if they were not there the health of the forest and the access within the forest would go done hill in a hurry. There is information from a study done by Dave Bradford when he was with the USFS showing how the range is improving with the management and grazing practices that are in place now. I believe in multiple use of the forest and that grazing should always be a part of the multiple use. I hope that one day the public will realize that grazing the forest benefits the as much as it does the ranchers doing the grazing, with the health and access of the forest along with the economy of the surrounding committees.