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Comments: This project is a thoughtful and effective response to two conditions affecting the project area both economically and environmentally: 1)devastating wildfire and 2)deteriorating grassland conditions. It will lower the intensity, extent and destruction of wildfire. For this reason alone, the project is economically justified. The large wildfires in the area two years ago cost millions of dollars to control. Hundreds of firefighters were brought in to eventually bring the blaze under control. Air support was also used. The mop-up went on for days, adding significantly to the cost. The fuelwood removal, the targeted grazing, and the strategically placed small controlled burns this project calls for would surely reduce the cost of fighting wildfire by a significant amount. Wildfire would just be more quickly and more easily controlled and suppressed.

The other major impact of the project would be restoring grassland to a previous condition, before woody species, like mesquite, were spread through the grassland, changing the ecology of both flora and fauna of the grassland and reducing it's value to cattle as well as other native wildlife.

This project should be fully funded. The cost of the poject is insignificant compared to the 'do nothing' approach, which would allow wildfire and brush invasion to continue unhindered.

I've attended a public hearing, attended by USFS staff, including the District Supervisor, the wildlife biologist, the range specialist, the archaeologist, and the fire captain. These people were knowledgeable and professional.

We attendees were impressed with all of them.

The only thing I think would improve the project would be the apability to use Garlon, or Crossbow, or other effective chemical (not glysohate) as a cut-stump treatment to prevent the resprouting of woody growth just cut and removed. it doesn't make sense to cut the same brush year after year, when a more permanent method can be used.

From what I learned from the meeting attendees, all support this project and would like to see it fully funded.