

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/20/2020 8:00:00 AM

First name: Roger

Last name: Akkerman

Organization:

Title:

Comments: From: Roger Akkerman and Harvey Hagedorn/Permittee

February 16, 2020

Jeremy Sullens, KNF District Ranger

Attn: Kaleigh Maze, Re: Oak Knoll Range Project File Code 1950

This is in response to the Oak Knoll Project Environmental Assessment on cattle drift on the crest.

The main objection as stated on page 14 and 15 of this report on allowable drift on the Crest was that the allotment turns out dates differ between the KNF and RRSNF. A simple solution would be if there was an agreement on an acceptable date for turn out on the Crest between the two forests and permittees, this would solve the problem. If this issue is agreeable, the permittees are willing to work together and keep the cattle drift to a minimum, problem solved. We have never objected about the RRSNF permittees cattle on the East Beaver Allotment because we all work together during the grazing season and end of season cattle gathering. What is the RRSNF turn out allotment dates on the Crest? The permittees have had a good relationship on working together over the years on cattle grazing and now it is about time that the KNF and the RRSNF to work together and solve a simple solution.

Over the past few years the East Beaver Allotment Cattle have been blamed for the damage to the flora and fauna in Donomore Meadows even though the past private owners encouraged and did not have a problem with cattle grazing the meadows. Donomore Meadows now under new management of the RRSNF there is a new permittee with an allotment to graze cattle in the meadows. I assume that the RRSNF now has control, and there is no longer a problem with cattle grazing and having an impact on the environment.

If both the KNF and RRSNF don't address the issue of the alders encroaching upon all the meadows they won't have to worry about the flora and fauna in the future, and your biologists will be out of a job. This includes all of the spring as well; just take a good look at Bear Grounds Springs in the Dry Lake Allotment. We have tried to put in spring box and a water trough for the cattle so they could get a good drink and leave to graze elsewhere instead of hanging around because all of the alders are sucking up all of the water. I think that the PCT hikers would also agree on getting a drink of clean water also. I am getting off the subject but it makes me mad when we had an onsite meeting at Bear Grounds Springs and everybody agreed and nothing has been done because of non interest in the issue, plus the red tape excuses. I think that a range manager would want to improve the range for cattle grazing, that's his job, instead of complaining about problems the cattle are causing.

At our onsite meeting at Bear Grounds Springs I talked to Dan Heigline, the Range Manager and Jeremy Sullens, the District Ranger about the Beaver Creek corrals materials as shown on page 17 of the report on relocating them to a better location for drift control and allotment gathering for over a year. Two appointments were made to look at the Beaver Creel Corrals and canceled by them. It is now understood that these materials were given to the Cash's to use as they wished, what is this all about.

In conclusion as I said before the KNF and the RRSNF need to work together to solve this simple drift problem as stated above, both the KNF and the RRSNF allotment cattle do not have a GPS and the Crest is an imaginary line since there are no natural barriers and fencing as stated is a non-option. This entire report is about a few of East Beaver Allotment cattle crossing the Crest as stated on page 24, endangering the flora and fauna of the

RRSNF, and when notified or when we see them, the cattle are removed immediately. At any time you may see that many cattle from the RRSNF allotment cattle on the East Beaver Allotment, in Cow Creek, Bear Creek, Trapper Creek, etc. the only difference is that we work together with our RRSNF permittee neighbors and handle the drift amongst ourselves, and not go screaming to the USFS.

There are a lot of Range Improvements that could be made to properly manage cattle on the allotments if only there was an interested party to listen, cattle management is not hard if only you have knowledge of cattle and their needs. We need to work together in the future.