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First name: Susan

Last name: Nolan

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing concerning the proposed Oak Knoll Grazing Project, which includes critical habitat for endangered coho salmon.

Unlike many endangered species, coho have the history and the potential for economic value. Ocean fisheries and inland sport fisheries once provided many jobs in northern California: commercial fishers, canneries, party boats, guides, motels, restaurants, sporting goods stores, and their communities at large, benefited from salmon season. In addition, recreational fishers derived huge enjoyment from a sport no longer open to them. Many efforts are underway to improve habitat to keep the remnant runs going and, in time, bring back healthy runs.

Cattle, with their tendency to stay near water sources, while trampling, compacting soil, and browsing vegetation, contribute to water pollution and other adverse impacts on salmonids. I encourage you to close the East Beaver allotment for the benefit of the fish and the valuable resource they represent. At a minimum, reducing the number of cattle permitted, and shortening the grazing season to avoid impacts in spring and fall, would be helpful.

Public lands have a disproportionately important role to play in salmon recovery. The benefit of public lands grazing to a handful of graziers is far outweighed by the potential longterm benefit to many and to the ecosystem itself. Please consider prioritizing salmon protection in the East Beaver allotment by deauthorizing grazing.