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Organization:

Title:

Comments: I did a detail in this area about 20 years ago. It look rather rough from overgrazing. Hence these comments.

As a GS-11 USFS Range Manager for 35 years, retired. I experienced much harassment from my district ranger, et al. for much of it, generally stemming from the ranger's attitude "I'm in charge here, what I say goes, shut up and go away, I got big timber sales to do worth millions of dollars and your range problem is nothing to bother with!"

With administrative attitudes like (names on request), I found the general attitude of the USFS is to ignore or do as little as possible for range management. This leads to land abuse, not to mention abuse to both female and male employees, including me. These statements, or essentially like it, further indicate a systemic problem in USFS range management.

Economically, the rangers were correct. At \$1.58 per AUM, proper range management, plans, collections, and monitoring is hardly worthwhile. If USFS does not have the funding to properly manage allotments, they should NOT be issuing permits. There is NO excuse for such a poor job, not to mention administrative opposition to proper conservation measures on PUBLIC lands. Bluntly, the value of ESA TES wildlife, recreation, game hunting, fishing, hiking, watershed, tourism, etc. vastly exceeds \$2 per month. The solution is to charge the average price of pasturage on nearby private lands...the county would have that figure easily. About \$20 per AUM is reasonable, Round off and call it good. The ranchers want equality, give it to them at local pasturage rates.

Economically, if you still can't make grazing pay for proper USFS management, don't allow it, and that goes for East Beaver and all other allotments. Why should MY taxes pay for a rancher's subsidy to raid MY land? Over-use or mismanage it? Your own responsibility to me?

I suggest terminating all permits until the USFS allotment is proven by extensive surveys (not just a few transects) only in riparian areas, that show conclusively the land (especially riparian!) has been restored to excellent ecological condition. That is proper public responsibility.

Thank you and I sincerely submit these comments for public perusal.