

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 8/4/2020 7:00:00 AM

First name: John

Last name: McDonagh

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear Forest Supervisor Patricia Grantham,

I am submitting this document of objections to the Oak Knoll grazing project. Thought, I believe that livestock grazing on Forest Service Lands fills a need as part of supporting locally raised beef and agriculture. I object to the way the management of the grazing allotment has been handled, both by the Range Managers and the Permittees. Over the last permit cycle(10 years),Range Managers have not been proactive in the field to monitor cattle numbers, preventing movement of cattle into the alpine region before their time as well the habitual drifting into adjacent allotments. The lack of enforcing the permit contract with the permittees. The permittees drop off the herd in the lower allotted area and technically allow the cattle to wonder aimlessly of they own will, entering the high country as early as May in some years. Little to no range riding and showing up in November desperately trying to move the cattle out before the snow gets too deep to move them.

Remedies for this objection: Increase Range Managers field operations, managing the allotment by monitoring cattle movement, knowing where herds are located within the allotments. This can be in conjunction with the Permittees riding the range on a regular basis and communicating regularly with each other. This will reduce the drift problem substantially as well as other problems that can be remedied in short order. Documenting activities and actions along with citations for permit violations. This will help for future grazing allotment drafts having up to date information available.

I object to this project because the lack of protection at the Siskiyou Crest, the headwaters of all the drainage that eventually ends up in the Klamath River. The soil, plants and animals that are impacted by mismanagement. I know, I own 250 acres at the crest. The headwaters and wet meadows of Deer Creek, on Sterling Mountain. I built a 2 plus mile buck and rail fence to protect this precious area from trespass cattle. My observations of the surrounding Forest Service Lands show heavy impact by cattle. My property is in the middle of the riparian reserve and also primary range according to USFS documents. No effort is made to reduce this grazing impact on my property or the surrounding Forest Service Property. The picture on page 9, Figure 1 of the amended E.A. Road 40S16 looks like the areas in the riparian reserve around me in July. My enclosed protection area has been used as a holding corral, I guess the Deer Creek Corral is too small, has no water and nice green grass.

Remedies for this objection: Again, Range Managers and permittees need to be in the field on a regular basis, to monitor and work with permittee to move cattle into other areas to lessen impacts and document disturbances with follow up measures with problem lead cows. Not to use my fenced off area as a holding corral. Maybe the Forest Service could help repair my fence and document the effects of cattle and weather on the structure. The fence has been up there for over 10 years now, before long it will be an historic artifact.

Finally, I object to this project because the Environmental Assessment is vague and lacks substance. The assessment looks exactly like the precursor assessment with a few changes in dates and new maps with different colors. From my review of the E.A. and the decision of Ranger Sullens to accept the draft as final and implement the selected alternative falls short of the vision laid out in the Klamath National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. It fails to represent the multiple-use objectives outlined in the KNFL & RMP. Further more Ranger Sullens focused mainly on livestock grazing, rubber stamped this decision and paid no attention to all the organizations representing 10s of thousands of tax paying citizens voicing their comments in good faith on the initial draft. The citizens who belong to these organizations use the National Forest for recreating and enjoy the unspoiled environment that the National Forest Hold. When they encounter faults in the system they call it out. Asking help from members who are Lawyers and Science practitioners educated in their field of expertise. The monetary return to Siskiyou County for all who recreate in the National Forest out weigh

the give-away that is the grazing allotment.

Remedies for this objection: Conduct a full EIS analysis for this project that will meet the multiple-use objectives for all, bringing to light impacts and values associated to those objectives. There has been no EIS in the past for this project. This remedy will give opportunities to Forest Service Science professionals to have a detailed analysis of this project and will help with other future projects. This analysis will give up to date information and would satisfy all interested parties.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my objections on this project and hope all parties will benefit.

Sincerely,

John McDonagh