Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/16/2022 7:48:34 AM

First name: Annette Last name: Howell Organization:

Title:

Comments: Regarding proposal to exclude livestock from campgrounds with fencing: Fencing in campgrounds can cause more problems than it solves. Mother cows can get separated from their calves if their calf squeezes through fence and then gets stuck inside exclosure. Cows of any age can get through a weak spot in fence and then be stuck inside causing more damage and potentially risking their health if they can't get to water. Depending on material used fence can easily become fuel for a campfire or a target for shooters. Fence can be a hazard to children, motorcyclists, and recreational livestock. Putting up a fence around a campground will provide recreational livestock users a ready made corral for their horses and therefore defeating the purpose of excluding permitted cattle. No one (Forest Service or livestock Permittee) has the time or money to maintain these fences

permitted cattle. No one (Forest Service or livestock Permittee) has the time or money to maintain these fences and keep up with the inevitable vandalism. The proposal to install cattleguards where so many people are going to be is reckless. Children and horses can fall in them. Stabled recreational horses are not usually cattleguard savvy. Exclosures will need gates, gates will be left open by users. Implementation of these campground exclosures should be reconsidered but most importantly before implementation involve livestock manager in design. Many factors to consider here... Need to try to mitigate in other ways than erecting structural improvements. Need to consult the livestock managers for input on solutions.

Need to see maps showing where the suitable grazing is and where was deemed not suitable. The maps presented give the impression grazing occurs on every acre.

I support properly managed livestock grazing. It encourages flora and fauna species diversity. Areas with long-term livestock exclosure ie. the vacant Figueroa Allotment on and around Figueroa Mountain, the vacant Rockfront Allotment, and Painted rock exclosure exhibit monocultures that have dense unpenetrable thatch, greatly reduced forb species and few wildflowers. These areas when burned in wildfire burn at much higher intensity causing soil damage and difficulty extinguishing. Lack of grazing typically results in an increase in noxious weeds with no control mechanisms. Livestock are cheap control measures.

Ability to support increase in head months is dependent upon livestock distribution which takes active management and is also highly dependent upon water availability.

Porter Allotment Sheep camp pasture is currently and historically permitted and grazed year-round not just from 06/01-11/30 as shown in Table 5 Alternative 1. It would be extremely difficult for livestock managers to completely remove all livestock from that large pasture for 6 months of the year. That pasture needs to take advantage of the spring growing season.