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First name: Scott

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Organization: Sevier County

Title:

Comments: Dear Bryan Monroe/Forest Service, Please accept the following comments on the proposed action for the Flat Canyon Grazing allotment. We appreciate the opportunity as county Commissioners in Sevier County to respond to this proposed action. Forest service plans follow congressional intent to allow grazing on suitable land managed by the forest service and has policy supportive of the economic benefit and social well-being of those who depend on grazing for their livelihood. The resource management plan for Sevier County supports the need to protect grazing and promotes the direction of no loss of AUMs in our county. Support of the grazing community is vital to the economic well-being of and overall health of the agriculture community in our county. As elected officials, we would support alternative #1 and #2 of your proposed action that maintains grazing prospects for the Flat Canyon allotment. We realize there have been challenges relating to the successful grazing here mainly centered around the lack of dependable water sources on the allotment. Joining this allotment with neighboring allotments may help in this regard. We understand that the neighboring permit may benefit from having additional grazing available to them during certain times of the year and certain grazing situations, but to allow the potential for grazing to go away may allow for the introduction of wild species to be introduced here that would have a potential health risk to domestic livestock in our county and neighboring counties. We don't feel that the introduction of big horn sheep, for instance, is the right approach for this area because of the nature of these animals showing up anywhere unintended with its potential health problems. These animals aren't going to stay within the boundaries of the permit and may affect sheep and goat producers or operations in Sevier and Millard counties. Going forward, we want to be involved in the process that affects the residents here in our county and maintain a good working relationship we have with the Forest Service.