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Comments: To the USDA Forest Service,

Please reconsider the policy of feeding elk. This logically provides excellent opportunity for crowded conditions and spreading of disease otherwise mitigated by typical grazing patterns where elk spread out and keep moving. Elk and cattle typically choose different forbes and grasses to eat, and therefore shouldn't present competition with each other on the landscape. Wolves and mountain lions have been documented to sense sick wild animals and prey on them, helping to cull any elk carrying disease. I do not think this has yet been observed of cattle which thus might spread disease among themselves differently. I trust ongoing research will sort out much of this.

Meanwhile, feeding stations for animals that otherwise spread out disrupt normative elk behavior and pose disease spread problems. Choosing to NOT feed elk would promote animal health all around.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment, and thank you for your ongoing research and work.