

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 2/13/2024 2:29:25 AM

First name: Trevor

Last name: Barnson

Organization: District 6 Farm Bureau

Title: Board of Director

Comments: Dear Mr. Brian Monroe,

I am Trevor Barnson, Board of Director representing District 6, Piute, Sevier, Garfield, Wayne and Sanpete. I am writing to object to the draft decision. While I appreciate the forest maintaining grazing on the flat canyon allotment, i object to the conversion of sheep to cows as it leads an overall AUM/HMs reduction. There are many concerning, and ethically questionable actions taken throughout this transaction. The permit was returned without preference and the draft wrongly stated that there were no other interested parties, when factually 2 or 3 sheep producers in or around my district filed on the permit. Which makes the additional EA unnecessary, as it finds little to no significant impact to continue grazing sheep. The organization who "purchased" the allotment was given way more consideration to skirt the rules than an actual grazer would have been. It is unclear whether the base property or livestock was purchased, a provision intended to keep to allotment in agriculture/grazing. The argument that these organizations invested significant money to get the previous permit holder to waive the allotment is not justification to ignore the correct process to reallocate an allotment, nor justify a costly analysis to change the livestock to meet their needs, as they did not have any documented preference. This sets a dangerous precedence for activist groups to outbid grazers with little or no intention to actually graze public lands at their intended capacity. Our organization is strongly opposed to any organization like this, including our own, purchasing grazing allotments and competing with private family farms/ranches. Though I recognize that there are multiple sides to every story, this decision and analysis is rift with misinformation and a lack of transparency and betrays the public trust. I ask the USFS to consider starting over and/or rectify the problems.

Sincerely,

Trevor Barnson

UTFB District 6 Board of Director