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Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to comment on the San Juan National Forest Environmental Assessment of the Junction-Falls Integrated Resource Management Project. I appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on this EA and future decisions made about public lands on the San Juan National Forest.

Pages 15-17 and Table 2 of the draft EA address Water Development Rehabilitation in the project area. For the Brush Spring site, it is stated that the fence enclosure will be kept in place, will all water/spring sites within the grazing management areas have enclosure fencing if they do not already? If not, I believe this should be analyzed further due to potential negative impacts from livestock grazing. Wildlife depend on these areas and they should be protected from trampling and erosion caused by livestock. For instance, the proposed action for Flag Park Reservoir states that non-functional enclosure fencing will be removed. Would new fencing be put in place? Keeping these water sources clean and accessible to wildlife would meet RMRI core values as well. In addition, the Dead Dog Spring and Sleepy Dog Spring sites have proposed actions to "potentially relocate non-system trail". I did not see any formal trail on the recreation map of this area. Are these "non-system trails" built without authorization or are they game/livestock trails? If they are illegally built recreation trails, I would ask that they be decommissioned since they would not have undergone proper NEPA scoping.

With regards to elk and deer migration corridors through the project area, will work cease during peak migration times to lessen impacts to these animals? We have winter recreation closure areas to protect critical winter habitat but the impacts to migrating animals does not seem thoroughly analyzed in this EA. Elk numbers in Southwest Colorado are below CPW objective so I would like to see greater care taken when potentially negatively impacting migrating ungulates. Again, wildlife is a core value for RMRI funding so impacts on them should be scrutinized further.

Thank you for your time and the consideration of my comments/questions,

Alex Krebs

Southwest Colorado Assistant Regional Director

Backcountry Hunters and Anglers