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First name: Little Missouri

Last name: Grazing Association

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Comments on early stage travel management project for the Little Missouri National Grasslands

The Little Missouri Grazing Association (LMGA) thanks the Dakota Prairie Grasslands for collaborating with us in the early engagement of the DPG travel management project.

The LMGA understands the DPG's limited funding is not the DPG's fault, but sufficient signage must be purchased and installed for the final decision to launch successfully.

The DPG lacks a law enforcement presence to monitor prohibited activities across the Little Missouri National Grasslands. Vehicles with off-road tires have been used to intentionally vandalize NFS land and drive irresponsibly when erosion can occur.

To protect vulnerable roads, an enforcement plan must be in place. Perhaps the DPG can collaborate with local sheriff offices and other law enforcement to catch the reckless driving incidents as they occur.

The LMGA upholds the ND Section Lines law and entreats the DPG to do the same when deciding on travel management.

The LMGA is not a good choice for an off road vehicle trail system. The NFS land is interspersed with much private land. A continuous trail could not be created readily.

The LMGA does not support an off-road vehicle trail system anywhere in the Little Missouri National Grasslands. Conservation projects approved by the USFS have to comply with the needs of sage grouse habitat, sharp-tail grouse habitat, deer fawning, elk calving, and Dakota skipper habitat. How will off-road motorized vehicles be managed to accommodate the fauna and flora needs throughout the year? Will off-road motorized vehicle users have to purchase permits that will help maintain the trails? How will the DPG mitigate livestock grazing with off-road motorized vehicles? ATV auto gates would help minimize gates left open by careless users. Will the trails be closed when the trails are too wet to prevent ruts and erosion? Will the trails be closed when fire danger is high?

Thank you for this opportunity to list our concerns.

Sincerely,

The LMGA Board of Directors