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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To Whom It May Concern:

I am, and have been for a number of years, a property owner in Baca County, Colorado. While my property doesn't directly abut Comanche National Grasslands, I am directly affected in many ways by the management decisions of the Comanche National Grassland properties that surround me on every side.

I would ask that the persons making decisions carefully consider the input of the public, specifically the public that is DIRECTLY affected by said management decisions, and ignore the special interest groups that have no tie to the area.

I have seen the pleas of special interest groups, headquartered 300 or so miles away, being upset about (what I believe to be false claims) of over harvesting of prairie dogs (no evidence of whether their claims relate to public or private lands, nor any ACTUAL evidence that their claims are legitimate or not). I, and most other local residents, are INCREDIBLY tired of uninvested 3rd parties attempting (especially with lies and falsehoods) to influence our way of life and the management of lands that in MOST cases, many of them not only have never seen[hellip]they probably could not point out on a map!

I would like to see the future land management plans of the Comanche National Grasslands to include the current recreational use by hunters, hikers, and outdoorspeople for ALL legal purposes.

Further, I'd like to see grazing policies that promote our ranching culture here in Colorado, while ALSO being accountable to not permit overgrazing and turning many of these pastures to dirt, especially in years that moisture is a problem. That would require USFS personnel ACTUALLY getting out and viewing the properties that are within their jurisdiction, and ACTUALLY managing said properties, instead of leaving it up to hope and chance.

In short, I'd like to actually feel like the USFS actually knows where these properties are located, and what takes place on them[hellip]because all too often, I feel that you don't. With the exception of a fire, I haven't seen a USFS vehicle or human employed by USFS on a property in the last 10+ years.

15 years ago, it was normal and a good thing to actually meet the local USFS personnel, get to know them, even help with projects.

The Comanche National Grasslands, to my understanding, is the SECOND LARGEST National Grassland property in the entirety of the United States. I would feel like that would warrant better and more hands on management than I have witnessed in the last 20 years!

--Scott Elmore JAG, Campo, CO