

From: Amanda Clements <mailto:appliedecoservices@gmail.com>
To: FS-comments-rocky-mountain-san-juan-columbine
Subject: Grazing DEIS comments
Date: Wednesday, March 30, 2016 1:10:32 PM

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I am generally pleased with the FS preferred alternative. Here are my concerns:

What scientific basis is there for the utilization levels specified under the cattle grazing design features? What literature supports that these levels will be consistent with maintaining or moving toward the vegetation health objectives?

What are the allowable utilization levels for sheep, and what research supports these levels as being consistent with moving high alpine vegetation toward vegetation objectives?

The once in 10 year monitoring of vegetation seems inadequate for the intent of adaptive management. What scientific basis supports that this is frequent enough? In particular, the photo point monitoring will not be adequate to see details of vegetation change beyond biomass changes, which could be a function of timing or grazing.

Adaptive management is not an effective approach without specific objectives that relate to monitoring and specify at what level of change a corresponding management change will be required. These specific management/monitoring objectives should be included as design features to improve the public's, the Forest Service's, and the permittee's understanding of exactly what to expect from vegetation response, monitoring, and management.

Please address the costs of monitoring that would be adequate to do responsive adaptive management, and contrast those with the revenue generated from livestock use so the public can be better informed.

Thank you.

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