

From: Matt Kenna <mailto:mattkenna@gmail.com>
To: FS-comments-rocky-mountain-san-juan-columbine
Subject: Comment on Weminuche Landscape Grazing Analysis
Date: Monday, February 29, 2016 11:02:34 AM

Dear Forest Service-

I am writing to comment on the DEIS for the Weminuche Landscape Grazing Analysis.

I am writing as a hunter and recreational user of the area covered by the analysis. The preferred alternative (Alternative 4) should not be chosen because continued livestock grazing harms all the recreational users of the area while benefitting a very few ranchers.

For example, I used to hunt in the upper Virginia Gulch area, east of Lime Mesa Trail and north of the City Reservoir Trail during the first "elk only" season in mid-October. Over the years I took three elk out of there. But then starting a few years ago, a herder camp was set up around treeline which greatly increased the presence of sheep and totally pushed elk out of the area in this mid-October season even though sheep had been removed a couple of weeks before. I can no longer hunt in this area because there are simply no elk there, whereas large herds used to roam through this area in mid October.

So I particularly think that sheepherder camps should no be permitted north of the City Reservoir Trail in this area. But I know that hunters and recreationalists suffer the impacts of livestock grazing in other areas as well, and that is why I believe Alternative 1, which would end grazing in the entire analysis area, should be chosen.

Thank you for your consideration.

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