

Matt Janowiak
PO Box 439
Bayfield, CO 81122

Received
MAR 03 2016
Columbine Ranger District
San Juan National Forest

Jeff and Brenda Nelson
633 Sortais Road
Durango, CO 81301

Dear Matt,

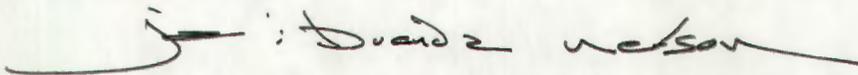
I am writing in regards to the Weminuche Landscape Grazing Analysis. We strongly feel that livestock grazing in the wilderness should be banned. As residents of LaPlata County for 33 years we have taken numerous trips into the Weminuche Wilderness and feel it truly is a national treasure. On many occasions we would run into areas of domestic sheep grazing. We have found on these occasions denuded vegetation, pristine creeks fouled with urine and feces and a smell that would rival any stock yard.

Now imagine individuals who are out to experience the wonderful outdoors of Colorado and find that finding a place to camp, in areas that sheep have been in, covered with a disgusting amount of sheep feces. I feel that this greatly diminishes the outdoor experience of locals and tourists who have come to enjoy the beautiful wilderness of Colorado.

As far as economic impacts, the tourism industry generates significantly more dollars than the wilderness grazing of sheep. As you mention there are six grazing permits and the only individuals benefitting from these permits are the sheep ranchers. They are also subsidized by the government. The amount they have to pay for grazing rights is ridiculous. To pay a nominal fee to support their lifestyle and ruin a wilderness experience is horrible. As a small business owner, no one, especially the government, ever subsidized my business.

Things have changed. Multitudes of people now recreate in the wilderness and provide a much larger economic impact than in the past. It is time to abandon these grazing permits, have the ranchers support their business on their own property, and return the public lands back to the people in its pristine state.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenda Nelson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending to the left.