

Objection Issue Briefing Paper: Range

Date: Oct. 1, 2020.
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DRAFT: For purposes of facilitating discussion for objection resolution process only.

Summary of objection issues:

1. The grazing analysis is inadequate.
2. Livestock grazing is not compatible with wilderness characteristics.
3. The 2020 Forest Plan does not sufficiently address the issue of noxious weeds.

Background information:

Authorized areas and levels of permitted livestock grazing within suitable acres or permitted head-months did not differ between alternatives because no allotments or pastures were identified to be closed from or open to grazing use. Therefore, action alternatives allow for the same baseline grazing levels as current conditions to continue if plan components are met in site-specific authorizations. Plan components place emphasis on improving riparian management zones and providing for improved wildlife habitat while still providing grazing opportunities on suitable rangelands for local economies. Plan components were designed to move resources towards desired conditions quicker than the current management under the 1986 Forest Plans.

The Forest Service maintains an inventory of areas with invasive species in the Forest Activity Tracking System database (FACTS) and the draft plan includes components to minimize the spread of invasive species through project design.

Examples of proposed resolution(s) submitted by objectors:

1. Include additional plan direction designed to reduce livestock grazing and its impacts on rangeland condition such as providing opportunities for grazing permit buyouts.
 2. Clarify how plan direction would apply to allotments with existing management plans and disclose effects of implementing the revised plan on grazing permittees.
 3. Disallow grazing in recommended wilderness, wilderness study areas, designated wilderness, and wild and scenic rivers.
 4. Perform a forest wide invasive species assessment.
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Objectors/Interested Persons:

Name	Organization	Obj/Interested Person
Clifford Bove		Objector
Al Christophersen	Elkhorn Restoration Committee	Objector
Cory Davis		Interested Person
Mark Good		Objector
Sara Jane Johnson	Native Ecosystems Council	Objector
Jocelyn Leroux (with Adam Rissien and Michael Garity)	Western Watersheds Project (with WildEarth Guardians and Alliance for the Wild Rockies)	Objector and Interested Person
David Mari		Interested Person
Peter Nelson	Defenders of Wildlife	Objector
Harvey Nyberg		Objector
John Tubbs	Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation	Interested Person
Len Walch		Objector
George Wuerthner		Objector

