




PUBLIC COMMENTS PERTAINING MT HAGGIN WMA GRAZING LEASES (SOUTH AND GERMAN GULCH)

 Tom Bowler <mttombp@charter.net>
To:  Boccadori, Vanna
Fri 2/7/2020 5:28 PM

 You replied to this message on 2/10/2020 11:26 AM.



Hello,


I wish to share my support for the continuation of the cooperative grazing program between various agencies and local producers that includes areas of the Mt Haggin WMA.

The mutually beneficial arrangements and utilization of the resource should be encouraged as much as possible.

As an aside, in reading the document for this program I had cause to once more seethe over the reverberating effects of the irresponsible former mining operation in German Gulch and the lingering impacts of that fiasco. I know the impacts on wildlife first hand due to the long ago loss of my favorite elk hunting area. What is not reported is the continuing impact on the availability of livestock grazing resources and repercussions on wildlife habitat. Thankfully, the WMA is available to fill in some of that loss of resource. Hopefully these hidden costs can be considered in expediting putting the environmental disaster to bed more quickly and returning some of those USFS lands to beneficial use rather than a continuing drain and exclusion to the public of desirable ecosystems. The ripples of the environment; wreck on the resources of the WMA once more illustrate the far more wide ranging impacts of reckless mining than is ever acknowledged by that industry and its overseers.

Tom Bowler
735 W Broadway
Butte, Mt 59701

 jerrydimarco@mail.com
To:  Boccadori, Vanna
Sat 2/29/2020 4:21 PM

 You replied to this message on 3/2/2020 10:57 AM.

Hi Vanna,

The EAs seem to be biased in favor of the status quo, just as it seemed 10 years ago. Obviously the arrangement produces results. Cattle can graze where wildlife live, but wildlife can get along just fine without them since that's how they evolved. It appears to me that when grazing was eliminated from the WMA, it was being managed for the natural resource values. When the rest rotation grazing system was introduced, management of the WMA appears to have shifted to optimizing for hunting. The EA should be honest about this.

I hope the managing agencies continue to be concerned about overstocking and impacts to riparian areas. However, I'm not convinced eliminating grazing would pose negative impacts to riparian vegetation. Wouldn't moose and elk also rejuvenate riparian vegetation?

I'm glad that noxious weeds are being managed for eradication. What is the concern about Douglas fir expansion though? Isn't this a natural process that ebbs and flows? Doesn't wildfire play a role in maintaining a balance?



Using mineral blocks to move cattle away from riparian areas is not mentioned in the German Gulch EA. Restoring westslope cutthroat trout to streams is not mentioned in the WMA South EA. Were these omissions just oversights? Are there plans to remove nonnative fish species? If cutthroat trout are restored to streams, what changes would be made in the grazing plan?


In an area that is so popular, trapping should not be allowed. If it is allowed to continue, areas where traps are set should be clearly marked all around so recreationists can avoid coming into contact with traps.

Would bison ever be restored to the area? Are pheasants or any other nonnative birds present? If so, are they going to be eradicated? Are there any changes anticipated from climate warming?




What guarantee is there of low stocking rates? Shouldn't this be addressed in the EA? Also, what would be done if ranchers no longer need the grazing allotments? Thank you for your consideration of these issues.

Jerry DiMarco
Bozeman

 Jack Jones <MTLandAccess@msn.com>
To:  Boccadori, Vanna
Tue 2/11/2020 12:14 PM

 You replied to this message on 2/11/2020 1:10 PM.

By this Email is to offer full support for the MT. Haggin R/R. I have seen this rest-rotation grazing allotment since it's inception it has continued to provide outstanding benefits to the wildlife resource and must continue as is. I have been on the Conner Gulch area although a few years back this is BLM public land and perhaps BLM might learn something from R/R. BLM was never a big supporter because they never understood it. BLM is slow learners. Thank 's to FWP our federal public lands will benefit. BLM may not know where it's at they never were on MT Haggin except Jones.

 David Stone <davston6@gmail.com>
To:  garrett ouldhouse
Cc:  Alec Underwood;  Angela Smith;  Ben Krakowka;  Bob Sokolich;  Boby Mehrens;  Uerling, Caleb;  Chris Marchion;  Chuck Otto;  Chuck Stokke;  Darrell Baker;  Darren Massey;  Dick clark;  Don Wyant;  Ed Cahill;  EDITOR;  Eric Clewis;  Harold Johns; +27 others
Wed 2/12/2020 10:28 AM

 You replied to this message on 2/12/2020 4:12 PM.
[Click here to download pictures.](#) To help protect your privacy, Outlook prevented automatic download of some pictures in this message.

These leases seem up to par and have always worked in the past. I think it's great that the grouse have habitate in Connor gulch. This is a great grasslands and plenty of room for cattle and Elk. It's been managed well in the past. The only damage I've seen to riparian areas are from people and their utvs. I support these grazing leases.



Tom Bowler <mttomb@charter.net>
To: Boccadori, Vanna

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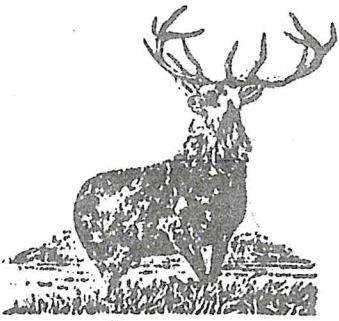
Fri 2/7/2020 5:06 PM

Hello,

I would like to express my support for the continuation of the cooperative grazing program between multiple agencies and local producers that encompass portions of the Mt Haggin WMA.

The program has been mutually beneficial for all concerned and demonstrates a far too rare example of positive cooperation to satisfy public and private need. The nature of the program highlights the fact that the natural ecosystem pays scant attention to artificial human boundaries with respect to what is best for the resource. The value of the private lands for wildlife and public access for managed recreation, the brokered fees for public infrastructure maintenance, and value of public lands for the benefit of the local producers are all things that should be encouraged whenever possible where the resources can be utilized in a complimentary fashion.

Tom Bowler
735 W Broadway
Butte, Mt 59701



Skyline Sportsmen's Association, Inc.

Box 173

Butte, Montana 59703

February 20, 2020

Concerned Parties:

Skyline Sportsmen Association and its 400 + members support the renewal of the two (2) Grazing leases on the Mt. Haggin Wildlife Management Area.

Skyline has always supported both rest rotation grazing; when used properly and multiple Use programs on both public lands and WMA's.

The Rest Rotation System-----South supports three (3) area ranches and provides recreational activities.

The MT. Haggin WMA-----German Gulch lease also has been successful for both ranching And recreation.

THANK YOU;

Les Castren

Director; Skyline Sportsmen Assoc.