



File Code: 1950/2210

Date: March 26, 2008

Dear Interested Citizen,

The Greys River Ranger District is proposing to continue sheep grazing on the Cottonwood Sheep and Goat (S&G) allotment. Several adjustments to livestock grazing management are also being proposed. This allotment is about 1 mile southeast of Afton, Wyoming, on the Greys River Ranger District of the Bridger-Teton National Forest. The allotment spans across the west and east sides of the Salt River Range (see map in the enclosed document) and encompass 37,200 acres.

This letter serves two purposes. The first is to request your input regarding the scope of the analysis conducted in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and FSH 1909.15. The second purpose is to provide you with a concise description of the proposed action so you may submit formal comments pursuant to the Notice, Comment, and Appeal Procedures at 36 CFR parts 215. People who provide timely comments on the project scope and/or proposed action will be eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations. Your comments on this proposed action are important to the process but are also consequential to managing range resources on the Greys River Ranger District.

Purpose and Need and Proposed Action

The enclosed document provides a detailed presentation of the purpose and need statement and the proposed action. A description of desired conditions, current management, and preliminary assessment of effects are included to provide context and additional information.

Level of NEPA Analysis

The Greys River Ranger District has determined that an Environmental Assessment (EA) will be sufficient to analyze the potential environmental effects of the proposed action. At a minimum, the following alternatives will be described and analyzed:

- Current Management
- Proposed Action
- No Livestock Grazing

Decision to be made and Decision Framework

As the Greys River District Ranger and responsible official for the Little Greys C&H allotment, I will:

1. Decide whether to authorize continued livestock grazing on the allotment.
2. If livestock grazing is authorized, decide under what parameters livestock grazing will be implemented. These parameters will include:



- Desired conditions of resources for Sheep and Goat (S&G) allotment standards have been derived from the Bridger-Teton National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and other plans & technical information.
 - Allowable use standards.
 - Best Management Practices (BMP) to be implemented as terms and conditions of the permit
 - Number of pastures and grazing system
 - Structural improvements necessary to help improve/sustain resource conditions
 - Class and number of livestock
 - Season of use
3. Decide whether the selected alternative may have significant effects and whether to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement before deciding on ‘1’ and ‘2,’ above.

In making this decision, I will consider Forest Plan and other relevant direction, available scientific and technical information; issues raised internally, public scoping input, public comments on the proposed action and environmental effects. I will decide whether or not to implement the proposed action or another alternative developed by the Forest Service in response to specific resource issues. I may choose one of the other alternatives or may select components from among the proposed action and alternatives.

How to Get Involved

This is your opportunity to participate in the environmental analysis for this project. This scoping and comment period provides those interested in or affected by this project an opportunity to make their ideas and concerns known. NEPA requires that the potential effects of federal actions and possible alternatives to those actions be disclosed to the public. All interested parties have an opportunity and are encouraged to participate in the process. Issues identified during scoping will help determine the range of issues to be considered in the environmental analysis and will help analyzed. Please provide specific rationale for your comments and opinions to assist us in the analysis for the project. If there is anything I have missed please let me know that as well.

Written, facsimile, hand-delivered, oral, and electronic comments will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of the legal notice of the opportunity to comment in the Casper Star-Tribune. Written comments are encouraged. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. You should not rely on dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Comments must be submitted to:

Jay L.Dunbar
 District Ranger
 Greys River Ranger District
 P.O. Box 339
 Afton, WY 83110
Telephone: 307-886-5300
FAX: 307-886-5339
Email: comments-intermtn-bridger-teton-greys-river@fs.fed.us
 Subject: Cottonwood S&G Allotment Management - 2008

The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc). Oral comments must be provided at the Responsible Official's office during normal business hours via telephone or in person; or at an official agency function (e.g., public meeting) that is designed to elicit public comments.

People who provide timely comments on the project scope and/or proposed action will be eligible to appeal the decision pursuant to 36 CFR part 215 regulations. Comments must meet the information requirements of 36 CFR 215.6. Persons not responding to this mailing will not receive further information regarding this project.

If you wish to participate in this environmental analysis or be kept informed of the process but are unable to respond to this scoping document, please contact Geoffory Anderson at the address or phone number above. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection.

Anonymous Comments

Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, those who submit anonymous comments will not have standing to appeal the subsequent decision under 36 CFR Parts 215 or 217. Additionally, pursuant to 7 CFR 1.27(d), any person may request the agency to withhold a submission from the public record by showing how the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) permits such confidentiality. Persons requesting such confidentiality should be aware that, under the FOIA, confidentiality may be granted in only very limited circumstances, such as to protect trade secrets. The Forest Service will inform the requester of the agency's decision regarding the request for confidentiality, and where the request is denied, the agency will return the submission and notify the requester that the comments may be resubmitted with or without name and address within 15 days.

If you have questions regarding this project, please contact Geoffory Anderson at 307-886-5300. This scoping document and map are also available online at www.fs.fed.us/btnf/projects/.

Sincerely,

JAY L. DUNBAR
District Ranger

Enclosure; Purpose and Need and Proposed Action Statements