

Via email:

To the Chairman, Rep. Mike Foote and members of the House State Veterans and Military Affairs Committee,

As a long time cattle rancher in Ouray County Colorado, I would like to comment on HB17-1141.

In 2003 we bought a cattle grazing permit of 50 AUMs on the Uncompahgre National Forest (GMUG) from a retiring permittee. Our ranch in Ridgway borders higher private land which we lease for summer grazing. That property borders the forest permit. Every June on horseback, we push our cattle uphill to the private lease and then on July 1 to the National Forest.

Over the years we have worked with 3 different National Forest managers and have had good dealings with them all. Annually we meet and discuss what is best for the land in the coming grazing season and we always reach consensus. I consider it a privilege (not a right) to graze our cattle on our public lands.

HB17-1141 seems like unnecessary legislation/regulation that will make it harder for the forest managers to keep our public lands healthy for the benefit of all the users.

Sincerely,

Liza Clarke
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