

Commissioners

From: McKay, Tod G -FS <tgmkay@fs.fed.us>
Sent: Tuesday, February 25, 2014 11:33 AM
Subject: News Release: Forest seeks public comments on grazing plan
Attachments: Sleeping Child Grazing Allotment.docx



NEWS RELEASE

Bitterroot National Forest

www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot

www.facebook.com/DiscoverTheBitterroot

United States
Department of Agriculture
Bitterroot National Forest
1801 N First St
Hamilton, Montana 59840

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Tod McKay (406) 363-7122

February 25, 2014

FOREST SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GRAZING PLAN

Hamilton, MT. - The Bitterroot National Forest is inviting the public to review and make comments on a proposal to reauthorize grazing on areas of the national forest. Livestock currently graze on suitable rangelands in the North Sleeping Child Area, 10 miles SE of Hamilton. The grazing allotment includes about 8,500 acres on National Forest System lands near Sleeping Child and Two Bear Creeks on the Darby Ranger District.

Livestock have been grazing on these lands since the 1930's. Current grazing levels on the allotment average approximately 45 cow/calf pairs for the four month season running from June 1 to September 30th. The new proposal includes features that reduce grazing pressures and maintain or improve natural resource conditions. Proposed actions include:

- Reduce the annual duration of livestock grazing on the allotment from 16 weeks to 14 weeks
- Adjust allotment boundaries to exclude sensitive wetlands while including some new drier uplands
- Develop additional livestock water sources to help with distribution and utilization
- Introduce periodic yearlong rest from grazing over the entire allotment

Public comments are now being accepted through March 14, 2014. Written, facsimile, hand delivered, and electronic comments should include: (1) your name, address, and organization represented, if any; (2) reference the North Sleeping Child Grazing Allotment; (3) information and rationale regarding the proposed action that you believe we should consider; and (4) your signature.

Submit comments to Chuck Oliver, District Ranger, Darby Ranger District, 712 Main, Darby, MT. 59829. Business hours for submitting hand-delivered comments are 8am-4:30pm, Monday through Friday. Electronic comments must be submitted in rich text format (.rtf), Word (.doc) or Word Perfect format

to comments-northern-bitterroot-darby@fs.fed.us. The subject line must contain the name of the project for which you are submitting comments. For more information contact Gil Gale, Forest Rangeland Specialist at 406-363-7100 or ggale@fs.fed.us. ###

This electronic message contains information generated by the USDA solely for the intended recipients. Any unauthorized interception of this message or the use or disclosure of the information it contains may violate the law and subject the violator to civil or criminal penalties. If you believe you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and delete the email immediately.