

December 2, 2013

To: Bureau of Land Management

From: Troublesome Valley Ranch-Carol Petersen

I am faxing to you my comments to the draft for Colorado BLM Greater Sage Grouse Environmental Impact Statement. Thank you.

3 pages Including cover page

*Carol J Petersen*  
*Troublesome Valley Ranch*

November 30, 2013

To: Bureau of Land Management

2815 H Road

Grand Junction, Colorado 81506

From: Troublesome Valley Ranch

P. O. Box 7

Kremmling, Colorado 80459

RE: Greater Sage Grouse Draft Land Use Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing my thoughts and concerns about the Greater Sage Grouse Draft Land Use Plan and Environmental Impact Study. In reviewing the draft, a lot of time and effort has went in to prepare the document. It is hard to understand the consequences of the plan and how it will affect the public lands and their use once they are implemented. I thank you in advance for considering my thoughts and concerns.

Troublesome Valley Ranch is a family owned and operated hay and cattle ranch located in West Grand County. We rely heavily on public grazing permits with the BLM, Forest Service, and State Land. If we no longer have the ability to graze summer allotments, it would be detrimental to our operation.

In reviewing your Land Use Draft Plan there are several alternatives. It appears if we want to continue our valid existing right to graze and keep the multiple uses on public lands, alternative D comes closest. In all the alternatives the language states there will be no grazing or there will be terms and conditions for plant growth and hiding cover for the sage grouse through livestock grazing, will there be terms and conditions for plant growth and hiding cover from the wildlife on the public land that impact the forage the sage grouse needs and the competition for the same forage? As a grazing permittee we already have terms and conditions to keep the range healthy or we are in violation of our agreement. As ranchers and caretakers of the land it in our best interest to keep and protect the health of our lands for current and future generations.

The alternatives address the allowance for retiring permits or grass banking, which in our opinion should not be an option. This action removes grazing lands from production and does not allow grazing for future generations.

The disturbance cap methodology is concerning to us. It is confusing as to who would manage and update this information, and by whom. It appears that disturbances on private land could affect the disturbances on public lands.

In closing it would be our hope to continue the multiple uses of our public lands with grazing being one of the uses. The decisions that are made today will greatly impact the generations of our future and that is something that needs a great amount of thought and consideration. We need to protect and preserve our lands and keep the multiple use mandates. Again, thank you for your consideration of our concerns before the Record of Decision is issued.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Carol J. Peterson*  
*Troubledome Valley Ranch*