



USDA Forest Service
Rio Grande National Forest
<http://www.fs.fed.us/r2/riogrande>

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USDI Bureau of Land Management
San Luis Valley Center

Date: November 19, 2010

Dear Interested Public:

The La Jara Public Lands Center is seeking public comment during the initial scoping for the La Jara BLM Domestic Sheep Term Grazing Permit Renewal Environmental Assessment (EA). This is the initial scoping announcement. Your ideas and suggestions can help shape how these grazing allotments are managed. Engaging in the process is an excellent opportunity for you to help make a difference and we encourage everyone who is interested in these public lands to work with us during this renewal process. We hope to work together, sharing information and communicating openly during the process while taking into consideration the legal requirements that the BLM must follow.

You can be involved and stay informed about the La Jara BLM Domestic Sheep Term Grazing Permit Renewal EA process by:

- Attending one of our public open houses:
 - 1) Monday- **November 29th** (Adams State College, Student Union Building (sign indicates College Center) Room A-131 – (first floor Southwest corner of building) at First Street and Monterey – parking is available at the Library parking lot to the West or in visitor parking at the North Parking Lot, North of the building, **Alamosa, CO** from 04:30 pm to 07:30 pm
 - 2) Tuesday -**December 7th La Jara** at the La Jara Public Lands Center located at 15571 County Road T5, La Jara from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm
- Contacting Mark Swinney, team leader, for more information about the planning process at **Email:** Mark_Swinney@blm.gov
Phone: 719-655-6105
Address: Mark Swinney
Saguache Public Land Center
Attention: La Jara BLM Domestic Sheep Term Grazing Permit Renewal EA
46525 Highway 114
Saguache, CO 81149
- Viewing the SLVPLC website at www.blm.gov/co/st/en/fo/slvplc. The website will continue to be updated as more information becomes available.

Information on the planning effort and decision process will be available at the public scoping meetings. Staff specialists will be available to provide information and answer questions related to this permit renewal process. The open house provides an opportunity for interested publics to provide input to be considered during the project analysis.



Public involvement is an essential part of the La Jara BLM Domestic Sheep Term Grazing Permit Renewal process. We welcome your ideas, comments, and concerns. Those wishing to comment on the project are encouraged to submit their concerns in writing to the above email address or postal address. **Written or electronic comments should be received by January 7, 2011 to be considered during our project development and analysis phase.**

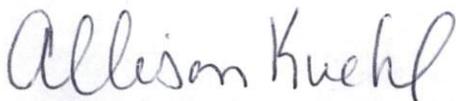
This EA will cover grazing on 13 domestic sheep allotments and 1 cattle allotment. The allotments include: La Jara Canyon, Garambuyo, Triangle, Greenie/McMahon, Piñon Hills, Arroyo, Poso Creek, Trujillo, East Bend, Pup Peak, Ra Jadero Canyon and Capulin sheep allotments as well as the Rio Grande cattle allotment.

The potential alternatives include but are not limited to: no action (continue the current management), no grazing, any permittee's proposal, and an action alternative removing grazing from areas that are at high risk of contact between domestic and bighorn sheep. A draft Risk Assessment for domestic and bighorn sheep contact has been developed for these allotments. Draft Conservation Measures are being considered as mitigation and terms and conditions for the term grazing permits in moderate and high risk allotments.

Internal scoping has been completed by an inter-disciplinary team. This scoping identified among other issues and concerns the potential risk to Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep herds by coming into contact with domestic sheep. This contact has the potential to transmit diseases which could have detrimental impacts on the health, distribution, and viability of bighorn sheep herds. Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep are not an endangered or sensitive species, but are a species with issues and concerns for the renewal of these term grazing permits.

If you would like more information, please write, call, or email at the address or phone number provided above. We hope you will choose to be on our mailing list. Should you decide not to respond or attend one of the public scoping meetings your name will be removed from the mailing list as an interested public for this EA.

Sincerely,



ALLISON KUEHL
ACTING LA JARA FIELD
OFFICE MANAGER

LA JARA FIELD OFFICE