





ADMINISTRATION

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May 12, 2022

Travis Moseley
Forest Supervisor Lincoln National Forest
3463 Las Palomas Road
Alamogordo, NM 88310

RE: Notice to Cease and Desist Grazing Year (GY) 2022 Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs) for the Sacramento Grazing Association (SGA)

Dear Mr. Moseley,

We are advised that the USFS is, through Annual Operating Instructions (AOIs), lowering the number of livestock that the Sacramento Grazing Association (SGA) is allowed to graze upon their lawful grazing allotment to a number that will not sustain their livelihood and likely lead to bankruptcy. We are further advised that USFS is basing this decision on a misapplication of science and inappropriate use of field data. Finally, we believe the actions by USFS on this matter constitute multiple violations of Otero County Ordinances, Chapter 150: Land Development and a failure to follow applicable federal policy and procedures.

The USFS's actions in this matter give rise to a variety of civil claims for injunctive and declaratory relief as well as monetary damages.

You are hereby notified to cease and desist from enforcing the Grazing Year (GY) 2022 Annual Operating Instructions for the Sacramento Grazing Association. Further we are directing that the USFS conduct a reevaluation of the SGA GY2022 AOIs based on the concerns raised by the New Mexico State University Range Improvement Task Force.

Approximately 5 months ago, we reached out to you via written correspondence seeking your cooperation in achieving federally mandated coordination on land planning use in the Lincoln National Forest, between your organization and us, the local governing body. We indicated our desire to approach issues collaboratively and seek solutions that are in the public's best interests. To date we have not received a formal written response. Sadly, this lack of cooperation and consultation, this unwillingness to work with County land managers, and this lack of respect for local policy has led us to this notice to cease and desist.

Even at this late hour, however, we remain willing to work with USFS. Please contact us to discuss the contents of this letter further.

Sincerely,

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF OTERO COUNTY NEW MEXICO**

Vickie Marquardt, Chairman

Gerald Matherly, Vice-Chair

Couy Griffin, Commissioner