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Comments:

We also request you add additional emphasis on the economic and social importance of grazing in the Ashland District. Ranching is the economic driver of the economy of Powder River County and we believe that there should be a firm commitment by the Forest Service to the importance of this activity. It will also add economic stability for the next plan period that grazing will continue to be the preferred economic driver on the District. While hunting and recreation are very important to our county it is the rancher maintaining the water facilities that has provided the necessary manpower to allow the wildlife populations to expand into the previously underutilized wildlife habitat. Additionally, the grazing cattle stimulate desirable new growth that the elk prefer. Your team has expended a considerable amount of time and energy into the production of the Draft EIS and Draft Forest Plan, we encourage you to incorporate these comments so we can continue to have a strong ranching economy in Powder River County.

Thank you