

ARIZONA CATTLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION
Federal Lands Committee and
ARIZONA PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL
1401 N. 24TH STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85008

June 7, 2011

Corbin Newman
Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service
333 Broadway SE
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Mr. Newman,

As the Wallow and other catastrophic wildfires continue to burn in Arizona, we urgently request that you consider our proposal, made formally here, to immediately add cattle presence to fire-threatened landscapes on Forest Service ground as an emergency, and perhaps permanent, means of reducing high fire fuel loads now occurring thereon and thus reducing their potential for immediate and future catastrophic destruction by wildfires. Because this emergency measure is supported by the best scientific information available relative to controlled livestock presence (Holechek, 2005), we contacted your Director of Range Management, Mr. David Stewart, and spoke with him about this idea, focusing particularly on the current and future status the grazing allotments that will be most affected by resource damage caused by these fires and others.

As a result, we have identified four major considerations integral to the immediate success of this proposal. First, we believe that the upmost flexibility must be granted to livestock operations during this emergency and immediately following its end. Second, fencing will be an issue. It may be possible for EQIP, through the NRCS, to assist in the construction or repair of division fences. Third, watershed rehabilitation is going to be of particular concern. It may be possible, through an EQIP/producer application or NRCD action, to re-seed these areas important to livestock production. Fourth, Temporary feeding approval. In many cases Elk and other wildlife are fed in emergency situations. It may also become necessary to do so relative to livestock on some of these affected allotments until the full onset of the summer rainy season.

It is with upmost respect and confidence that we look towards your leadership in this emergency to lead us through these trying times to an outcome that benefits all of us. We believe that the proposal we offer herein is an integral part of such an outcome, and we ask that the operations of these family businesses be given your special attention to insure their survival in these difficult times.

In closing, thank you for your time, consideration, and prompt response to our proposal. In the meantime, we will continue to work with Mr. Stewart on this extremely important matter. Should you have any questions or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Cook". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "David" and last name "Cook" clearly distinguishable.

David Cook
Federal Lands Chairman
Arizona Cattle Growers Association -
Arizona Public Lands Council

cc. David Stewart, Director of Range Management, Region 3, USFS
Steve Brophy, President ACGA
Andy Grosetta, First V-P ACGA
Dustin VanLiew, Executive Director
Paul Gosar, Arizona Congressman CD1
Jeff Flake, Arizona Congressman CD5
Jon Kyl, Arizona Senator
John McCain, Arizona Senator