I am writing in opposition to the proposed Red House Pasture Water Project. Digging wells to support livestock on public lands impacts the ecosystem of the entire landscape. The rare seeps and springs are a haven of biodiversity in this arid landscape and support numerous plant and wildlife species that depend on the water for survival. Furthermore, springs are important sacred and cultural places to many Indigenous tribes and support culturally significant plants found only on this landscape. These proposed wells could also have significant impacts on groundwater levels and decrease the amount of water emerging from the springs, thus adding to the impacts of climate change.

Wells not only impact the environment in themselves; they also bring new roads which transport trucks to and from the well site and could damage the natural habitat and cultural sites. Noise from the truck traffic also impacts wildlife. Cattle grazing on the landscape can cause serious harm to the soil by introducing toxins and invasive plant species. I urge you to say no to new water wells in Bears Ears National Monument! Thank you for the opportunity to comment.