February 16, 2023

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT REQUEST VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

SM.FS.R2FOIA@usda.gov

1617 Cole Boulevard

Building 17

Lakewood CO 80401-3305

**Re: Renewal Dates for Term Grazing Permits in USFS Region 2.**

To Whom It May Concern:

Great Old Broads for Wilderness (Broads) is a non-profit corporation registered in the State of Colorado and is certified under 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Tax Code. We are a national grassroots organization, led by women, that engages and inspires activism to preserve and protect wilderness and wild lands.

Our national organization is concerned with livestock grazing on public lands since it occurs on more than 250,000,000 acres of Forest Service and BLM land. Because of its breadth and scope, improperly managed public-lands grazing has the potential to be one of the most destructive uses of our precious wild public lands. Because our members are frequently out on National Forest lands, we want to contribute to proper grazing management by being eyes on the ground. To be effective at this, we need to be more fully informed about the grazing programs in the GMUG and San Juan National Forests.

Pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §552 et. seq.), Great Old Broads for Wilderness (“Broads”) requests the following information from Region 2 of the National Forest Service:

1. Term Grazing Permit scheduled renewal dates for grazing allotments in the GMUG and San Juan National Forests.
2. NEPA Decision Date for individual grazing allotments in the GMUG and San Juan National Forests.
3. Grazing Program final budget figures and FTE for FY 2018 through FY 2023 for the GMUG and San Juan National Forests.
4. Grazing Program reported accomplishments for FY 2018 through FY 2023 for the GMUG and San Juan National Forests.

Great Old Broads will use the requested documents in its non-commercial efforts to advance the public interest in protecting the natural values of the Region’s Forests. We will make the results of the requested information available to our membership, and to the general public through our local chapters, contacts with media, and through publicly available comments on management of livestock. Through these means, the general public can obtain information about livestock grazing practices and impacts on forest resources as well as local Ranger District conformance with FS and Region 2 rangeland management goals..

In accordance with the FOIA, if portions of a document are exempt from release, the remainder must be segregated and disclosed. Therefore, please make available all non-exempt portions of the records requested. Pursuant to the FOIA, we anticipate the receipt of written correspondence from Region 2 within twenty (20) days of your receipt of this request, indicating when we can expect to receive the requested documents.

We request that fees for responding to this request be waived. FOIA provides that documents shall be provided without any charge or at a reduced charge if disclosure furthers the public interest rather than the commercial interest of the requester. *See* 5 U.S.C. § 552(a)(4)(A)(iii); 7 C.F.R. § 1.12(p)(1). To the best of our knowledge, the information requested is not available from any other federal, state, or local agency. The release of this information will not result in any direct financial benefit to Broads, or any other individuals or organizations. In addition, the FOIA clearly indicates that Congress did not intend fees to present a barrier to public interest organizations seeking access to government records. Therefore, we request a fee waiver for all search and duplication fees pursuant to the Forest Service’s authority under the FOIA and its implementing regulations.

If you are not able to provide the requested documents or grant the fee waiver, please leave a message with Amanda Clements at cactusranchac@gmail.com or 970-596-3283 prior to processing. Please send materials in electronic format to Amanda Clements**,** but hard copy will be accepted, to the following address:

Amanda Clements

Great Old Broads for Wilderness

17908 Old Paradox Road

Montrose, CO 81403

Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Amanda Clements
Broadband Member, Northern San Juan Chapter