I have hiked along public lands in SW Washington and NW Oregon, especially in the Shilipoo National Wildlife Refuge and observed cattle standing in water in the Columbia River Slough. There was no fencing to contain the livestock from the water.

Public lands are for all humans and wildlife and should be managed for multiple uses, particularly when it comes to wildlife habitat. I would like to propose that the alternative submitted to the BLM by several conservation groups be placed in the Draft EIS as an alternative which would be compared with the BLM alternatives. Furthermore, I purport that 30% utilization of the BLM lands to reduce spread of invasive species, reduce riparian trampling, and reduce erosion. Furthermore, the non-use alternative annually for up to ten years as a permittee options in several places is needed to help restore habitat. The review of allotment health conditions should occur every ten years. Native species is a key element regarding the ownership of the lands, being owned by the American people, and not the individual ranchers for their cattle. Planting or seeding of non-native species is prohibited except in rare cases where native plants cannot solve a specific issue. The alternative proposal requires public input, response to public concerns, and reporting of outcomes, all for accountability to Americans regarding the consequences of grazing. The alternative proposal also requires non-lethal predator control. Lastly, the alternative opposes permittees waiting on the edges that allow temporary use which are not being used by the current permittee. The alternative also allows for monitoring to determine whether or not thresholds have been crossed.

In times of climate change and drought these issues need to be addressed and protected for public and multiple uses, particularly wildlife habitat.