Hi Gus,

Your information.

The meeting with the State Land Commissioner & Department was to recommend rest-rotation stations be implemented on State Land in conjunction with wetland development. Montana has 5.2 million acres of State land of which approx. 4.3 are State's lands.

As you know the Matador has State Land approx. 12,000 acres which includes Teddy Cr.

Our group which includes the Egan & Milte want to emphasize more rest-rotation stations on State land.

Regards, 

JACK D. JONES
Mr. Jim Owings, District Manager
Butte District-Bureau of Land Management
106 N. Parkmont
Butte, Montana 59701

Dear Mr. Owings,

On June 24, 1993, I once again had the pleasure of visiting the Sage Creek (Matador) Allotment in Beaverhead County during a field trip arranged by Mr. Jack Jones of your office in Butte.

I have visited this allotment several times before in company with various individuals including Gus Hormay, BLM people, Jack Jones, Marion Cross, State Fish and Game folks, ranchers and others. Each visit points out graphically how well rest-rotation works and how all values, including wildlife, are benefited.

My first visit to this area was about 1965 as District Three Game Manager of the then Montana Fish and Game Department. I can assure you, the area did not look as nice then as it does now, but of course, Gus Hormay's "before and after" photos attest to that fact.

I have been (and perhaps still am) a very strong (and vocal) critic of many of past and present grazing operations on the public domain ("BLM land"). However, I want to assure you that the sage Creek (Matador) livestock grazing operation is one of the finest examples of how livestock under rest-rotation rehabilitates a deteriorated range. Over a period of nearly 30 years, I have observed this range improve dramatically almost as if by magic, and that includes the riparian areas that fish and wildlife biologists agonize over so much!

The BLM and Matador Cattle Company can be proud of this area and it certainly meets the criteria and has produced the desired results to qualify and remain "...a demonstration area for improved rangeland management." and "...a land management training program..."

As a former wildlife biologist and administrator for 35 years, I am familiar with criticism, however it is very disturbing to hear that some (BLM?) folks in their criticism want to "fine-tune" this particular rest-rotation system.
Mr. Jim Owings
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I have observed some rest-rotation grazing systems that were "fine-tuned", "fine-tuned" right into oblivion! It will be a tragedy if such "fine-tuning" is allowed to happen to the Sage Creek(Matador) Allotment rest-rotation livestock grazing system. It's not broke, so please, please do not try to fix it!!!

Sincerely,

Joe Egan

Encl.
CC:  Mr. Ray Marxer
     Mr. Bob Kilmer
     Mr. Gus Hormay
     Mr. Jack Atchison
     Mr. Steve Antoniala
     Mr. L. F. Thomas
     Mr. Dave Majors
     Mr. Tom France
     Mr. Steve Knapp
     Mr. Jack Jones
     Mr. Bud Clinch
     Mr. Jim Baca
     Mr. Bud Lawton
     Mr. Ed Schurick
07-19-93

Hi Gus,

You may have received most of these letters.

Regards, Jack

I went through all the Matador files in Dillon.

I found some interesting results.

I will discuss with you.

Ducks Unlimited will also send letter. They were on the field trip.