

August 1, 2017

Ms. Hoffmann and Gentlemen,

My name is Ed Hansen and I am writing these comments in regard to my appraisal of the effect that the WOLF II will have on the property to the East of the proposed site. I have been associated with cattle for 70 years including my youth as a 4-H member and our family has been in the cattle business for 77 years. We are in the 4th and 5th generations of family involvement. I have personally been involved for a minimum of 60 yrs. and in full control of managing the operation for 57 years. I believe that I have had sufficient experience to qualify as to cattle behavior, particularly our own herd, which is the one that will be impacted by this project. I cannot guarantee what will happen, no more than the people proposing to bring in the wolf-hybrids can predict. What I can do is predict to the best of my knowledge, is how I think our cattle will react to this totally new environment.

Some of the comments and assumptions made by the proponents of the project are the result of inaccurate information or the total lack of knowledge of the issue of cattle behavior or both. Our cattle are somewhat unique as compared to the average herd in that they have been raised in an environment, for as long as I can remember, that has always included the use of stock dogs. These dogs, in addition to being companions, have a dual purpose. First, they are trained to heel a cow, bull or calf. The term "heel" means to bite the cow on the rear leg below the hock (knee) and the ankle without barking and doing it as quickly as possible, making no commotion except for the surprise & pain from the bite. Barking is strongly frowned upon and forbidden, if possible, because all this does is excite all of the cattle causing them to become confused and wanting to fight the dog.

The second purpose of using stock dogs is to increase the mothering ability of the cow and make her more protective of her calf. All cows have a certain degree of natural mothering ability with some being more protective than others. However, by using dogs you nearly always increase this protective trait. You have to know when the proper time and place is to use dogs as they can cause more damage & danger than being helpful if used improperly. We never allow a dog to be present around a cow and her newborn calf because she will become so protective they can injure you, the calf or the dog. They can become so protective they nearly go insane and have absolutely no fear, their total focus is to protect their calf. This mothering ability is one of two traits that are a priority in our selection of the breeding herd. If, after two years a cow does not possess this trait she is no longer retained in the herd. Our reason for requiring this trait is for the protection of the calf against predators, primarily coyotes and this tool has become very successful as we do not have a problem with death loss due to coyotes which many of our neighbors do. They do not employ the use of dogs.

Cows in our herd associate barking with the danger of dogs or coyotes and become very nervous and unsettled whenever they hear barking. I personally trailed cattle to the National Forest for over 40 years. These trips were between 40 and 65 miles at least twice each year. The use of dogs was a must as the cows became very respectful of what these dogs would do upon command. However, a dog following at the rear of the herd that would bark would cause nearly every cow, as far as the bark could be heard, to stop and turn around to make certain that her calf was following and safe. Many cows, hearing the barking, that did not have their calf following would immediately go to the place they thought the bark came from in search of their calf, and always in a nervous and confused state. That type of barking is comparable to the siren in traffic, it is perceived by the cow, as a warning of danger

and the cows respond by making certain their calf is safe and this pertains to anywhere and under all circumstances.

The introduction of these wolf-hybrids to the adjacent property appears to me to very likely create a very ugly situation. I feel very confident that the barking and howling from these wolf-hybrids will definitely impact the behavior of our cattle. Our cattle operation consists of four (4) family owned corporations working together as one operation, so this conflict is affecting four families not just D Dart Ranch, and cattle are our livelihood. If we are unable to use this pasture for our summer grazing, it will be crucial in our operation to maintain a sufficient number of cattle to remain anywhere near successful. Likewise, if we are unable to graze this pasture, my daughter, the owner of D Dart Ranch, or myself, who helps her in the management of this property, cannot ethically lease this land for grazing to someone else knowing the existing conditions. This being the case that this land becomes worthless for the grazing of someone else's livestock this appears to me to be a definite infringement on our property rights. We have grazed this land annually since 1949, the year it was purchased by my family. To protect our four families from no longer being able to continue our livelihood due to this imposition, we feel obligated to seek legal assistance. As such, we are presently in consultation with a legal firm to obtain guidance and direction to help prevent this from being the outcome. We definitely prefer that this is not the avenue that is needed. We just want to continue our way of life and support our families.

The other option is to develop the land. With the many complaints from the neighbors at the present location of the Wolf Sanctuary in the Rist Canyon area and the concerns of the residents in the area of the proposed site this definitely impacts the value of that option.

I have another concern that I have previously commented on, and that is the migration of the elk herd from the South Deadman and Bald Mountain area to the Lone Pine Big Game Wintering Unit. I would ask you, please obtain and read these comments because this issue impacts more than just local people. It affects the environment and recreation as well as the well-being of a big game herd.

As you can see, I do not perceive this venture to have a positive outcome with everyone even being close to satisfied in a positive manner.

Thank you for allowing me to comment,

Ed Hansen