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Title:

Comments: I generally support and applaud this proposed project. Past improper fire suppression and excessive livestock grazing have changed fuel loads, altered fire ecology, and hindered important natural ecological systems and processes. This proposed project is reasonable and necessary to help remedy these past management mistakes and to begin the restoration of these ecological systems and processes.

My concern relates to how the Forest Service will manage commercial livestock grazing after the proposed prescribed fire and other treatments are completed. This grazing is harmful to many natural and cultural resources, and will continue some of the problems that this proposed action is intended to solve. Cattle remove vegetation that provides the fine fuels for necessary low-intensity ground fires. Cattle also trample soils and spread cheat grass and other harmful invasive species. Cattle destroy riparian and meadow habitats that help to hold moisture on the landscape. Removal of riparian vegetation likewise prevents the needed reintroduction of beavers that help to restore watershed health.

Please carefully review the attachments with detailed information on the climate change related and other adverse impacts from livestock grazing on public lands in the West. Please also include my comments and these attachments in this project file.

I hope that this proposed action is adopted and successfully implemented, and that the Forest Service does not continue to authorize livestock grazing in treatment areas that would undermine the intended benefits.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Attachment: Article: Million Cattle Graze on Federal Land for Almost Nothing, but the Cost to the Climate Could be High, by Georgina Gustin