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First name: Nancy Last name: Stewart Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed changes and demand that the agency fully account for the impacts of permitted livestock grazing through a publicly transparent rulemaking process. The Forest Service must develop enforceable policies that ensure the agency will maintain authority for grazing management decisions and hold grazing permittees accountable for the impacts to public lands created by their privately owned livestock. I have personally observed the negative impacts of improperly controlled livestock access to wildland water sources here in the western states that damages riparian areas and water quality. Here in Arizona where I live, even temporary overgrazing can create permanent habitat destruction. Additionally, Livestock grazing on National Forests should be managed so as not to conflict with the recovery of imperiled or threatened species. For too long, the priorities of ranchers have threatened the habitats and ecosystems necessary to sustain critical biodiversity in many of our national forests. The forest service has the responsibility to pursue a policy approach that increases resilience to the impacts of climate change; protects public health; conserves our lands, waters, and biodiversity, and manages our forests for sustainability and habitat protection for future generations.