

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/15/2021 3:48:06 PM

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Organization:

Title:

Comments: To whom it may concern:

My family has owned property in the scenic central Idaho area known as the Sawtooth National Recreation Area (SNRA) for the better part of the last 70 years, and having grown up spending summers in the Sawtooth Valley, I have witnessed the devastating effects of over-grazing first-hand. Specifically, herds of cattle and sheep that are allowed to seasonally graze on U.S. Forest Service land adjacent to our property have caused significant erosion, muddied and fouled what would otherwise be prime trout & salmon streams/rivers, and discouraged native species such as elk & mule deer from feeding on the meadow grasses and other native plants. To allow these practices to continue, given the scientific knowledge that has been gleaned in recent decades concerning ecosystem vulnerability, especially the high-mountain ecosystems that prevail in areas such as the SNRA, is unconscionable. Instead, we must look for ways to REDUCE livestock grazing on public lands, both to encourage recreational use as well as mitigating the harm that is inevitably caused to the land. Accordingly, PLEASE do not look to expand the existing laws concerning grazing rights, or even preserve the status quo. What we need is real change in a positive direction - for the sake of the land as well as for future generations. Thank you for your consideration.