

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/16/2021 5:12:17 PM

First name: Kristin

Last name: Leavitt

Organization:

Title:

Comments: PLEASE do not roll back the clock on grazing policy for wild public lands. Can we not please - once and for all - stop chasing short term benefits for a few at the long term permanent expense of the land, the watersheds, the animals, the related expanded ecosystems and the future of our country and it's children!? I support and beg you to consider in good public policy faith and sound ecological science all the following bullet points:

*The Rangeland Management Directives have the potential to significantly affect millions of acres of public land, including Wilderness, where livestock grazing is fundamentally at odds with the mandate of the Wilderness Act that Wilderness remain "untrammeled."

*Livestock grazing on National Forests, including millions of acres of Wilderness, significantly degrades our public lands. Impacts from grazing must be fully examined and addressed through a transparent, public process that complies with federal laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act.

*Any revisions to Forest Service grazing policies should encourage and prioritize voluntary grazing permit retirement to reduce permitted livestock grazing across the National Forest system, including within Wilderness, so as to protect Wilderness, other public lands, and wildlife.

*The FS should not return grazing to the excessive levels permitted in the 1960s when it is clear conditions oftentimes cannot support increased, or even current, grazing levels.

*The Forest Service must develop policies that ensure the agency will maintain authority for grazing management decisions and hold grazing permittees accountable for the impacts their livestock has on public lands. Destruction of the habitat by grazing is NOT a "public good", and said permittees should NOT be eternally enabled to underwrite private enterprise at the expense of responsible scientifically informed management of natural areas critical to public enjoyment, healthy expanded nationally related ecosystems, and sound environmental policies to serve and preserve more than the profit in cattle, sheep and meat trade now and for the future.

*The recovery of imperiled or threatened species needs to be prioritized on National Forests, and livestock grazing must be managed so as not to jeopardize species' recovery. This includes not expanding livestock grazing into areas where ranchers then feel entitled to lobby for further destruction of endangered and/recovering species wolves, coyotes and other natural predators as an adjunct to "protecting their business assets".

*This Trump administration proposal to increase grazing would fuel livestock grazing's contribution to the climate and biodiversity crises, and runs directly counter to the Biden Administration's 30x30 land conservation agenda by sacrificing what could be protected lands to the commercial livestock industry.

*The Forest Service has the power now to step away from the Trump era sanction of plundering resources for private gain over practicing environmentally supportive informed constructive stewardship of lands. Please do the right thing for Wilderness, other public lands, and wildlife by dropping the proposed Rangeland Management Directives under discussion.

*If the Forest Service wishes to amend its directives, the Forest Service must undertake a more comprehensive rulemaking process that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Most respectfully submitted today, 4/16/2021 - Kristin