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Comments: Too often, we all forget that wildlife and wilderness belong to the people; as such they are our national heritage and shouldn't be managed as corporate properties. 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." The Wilderness Act is paramount.

The Forest Service must do the right thing for Wilderness, other public lands, and wildlife by dropping its proposed Rangeland Management Directives.

Livestock grazing, especially in the millions of acres of Wilderness, degrades our public lands. Law requires that 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.

One consideration for any revisions to Forest Service grazing policies should encourage and prioritize voluntary grazing permit retirement; this will reduce permitted livestock grazing across the National Forest system, including within Wilderness.

We need policies that ensure the Forest Service will have authority for grazing management decisions. In addition, grazing permittees should be held accountable for the impacts their livestock has on public lands. Imperiled or threatened species need to be prioritized on National Forest land; livestock grazing must take a secondary position to such species' recovery.

Any time the Forest Service wishes to amend its directives, the Forest Service must undertake a more comprehensive rule making process that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act. In addition, more effort needs to be made to publicize actions and the possible effects on our national lands.