

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/16/2021 5:55:40 PM

First name: Kent

Last name: Borges

Organization:

Title:

Comments: As an American taxpayer who cares deeply about the preservation and protection of our public lands, I am concerned that the proposed Rangeland Management Directives developed during the Trump administration specifically to increase grazing would not only fuel livestock grazing's contribution to the climate and biodiversity crises, but run directly counter to the Biden Administration's "30x30" land conservation agenda by sacrificing what could be protected lands to the commercial livestock industry. We cannot afford to return grazing on public lands to the excessive levels permitted in the 1960s when it is clear conditions oftentimes cannot support increased, or even current, grazing levels

The proposed Rangeland Management Directives have the potential to significantly affect millions of acres of public land, including millions of acres of Wilderness, where livestock grazing is fundamentally at odds with the mandate of the Wilderness Act that Wilderness remain "untrammeled." Livestock grazing on National Forests 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 recovery of imperiled or threatened species needs to be prioritized on National Forests and livestock grazing managed so as not to jeopardize species' recovery. The Forest Service also needs to 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.

I ask that the Forest Service please do the right thing for Wilderness, other public lands, and wildlife by withdrawing the proposed Rangeland Management Directives. In the event the Forest Service wishes to amend those directives, there needs to be a more comprehensive rulemaking process that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Thank you for your consideration in this regard.

Sincerely,