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Comments: I would like to comment on the proposed updates outlined in the Rangeland Management Directives #ORMS-2514. As someone who has a background in ecology and biology, I know that this leftover Trump administration proposal to increase grazing would not only fuel livestock grazing's contribution to the climate and biodiversity crises, but runs directly counter to the Biden Administration's 30x30 land conservation agenda by sacrificing what could be protected lands to the commercial livestock industry.

We are experiencing accelerating climate chaos and an alarming loss of species and biodiversity. Many forms of wildlife now inhabit a small fraction of the range they previously occupied (down to 4% of their former range according to a study compilation reported by Sir David Attenborough (please view the two recent documentaries that recently aired on PBS: "Extinction: the Facts" and "Climate Change; the Facts"). Wilderness areas are vitally important for maintaining a balance in the various water, oxygen, carbon and other cycles. Grazing degrades soil by compacting it (reducing the ability of the water table to "recharge") and displacing many native species as well as disrupting entire ecosystems. Water quality and quantity will be degraded by grazing herds and subject to the digestive waste products of grazing animals (which is also a factor in increasing greenhouse gases).

The Forest Service must do the right thing for Wilderness, other public lands, and wildlife by dropping these ill-advised proposed Rangeland Management Directives that only benefit commercial special interests and ignore the long-term harmful impacts. The proposed changes are detrimental to our future because extinction, loss of biodiversity and accelerating climate change will harm the entire planet. Other countries are participating in "Rewilding" programs and even creating wildlife corridors. Please be forward thinking in any changes and consider long term outcomes. Any changes the Forest Service wishes to make to its directives must, at a minimum, comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.