Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/16/2021 6:13:37 PM First name: Dave Last name: Potter Organization:

Title:

Comments: I have hiked and backpack camped in many wilderness and wild areas of our National Forests. I continue to see overgrazed grassy areas with large numbers of 'cow pies' across them. I continue to see small and large creeks with overgrazed, near or completely bare dirt banks that have been broken down into loose dirt by cattle tromping. This causes the creeks to erode down into ditches with steeper banks that break down further by cattle getting to drinking water. For a fact the Forest Service does not and is not staffed enough to deal with grazing in closed areas, grazing more cows and for longer time than permitted and significant damaged to wet meadows and riparian areas. Lastly, it is bad news trying to camp amongst manure piles and the associated flies not to mention cow manure piles on hiking trails. Even if the Forest Service had the range managers and law enforcement people - which they most certainly do not - to keep grazing as per the permits there still would continue to be too much grazing of our public forest lands. I urge the Forest Service to serve the majority of users - which isn't the ranchers - of our public lands: campers, birders, hikers, fishermen. I urge that grazing be ended in all wilderness areas, wild and scenic areas, research areas and other special areas. I urge that permits be revoked for those ranchers not following them I urge that grazing stocking rates be reduced so native plants can increase [rather than decreasing under the decades of overgrazing Forest Service has permitted.] In short, OUR public forests need to less serve the minority - but politically powerful - ranching community. OUR public forests need managers better serving the majority, the recreational users. Also, it is true that cattle grazing hay and over-use has increased the spread of noxious weeds across our public lands.