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Comments: I am writing to urge the Forest Service to do the right thing for Wilderness, other public lands, and wildlife by dropping its proposed Rangeland Management Directives.

The Rangeland Management Directives are 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 retirement of grazing permits to reduce permitted livestock grazing across the National Forest system, including within Wilderness, in order to protect Wilderness and other public lands, and the wildlife and humans that depend upon their ecological health.

The Forest Service must not return grazing to previously permitted levels when it is clear conditions 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.

The recovery of imperiled or threatened species needs to be prioritized on National Forests, and livestock grazing managed in a way that does not jeopardize species' recovery. This leftover Trump administration proposal to increase grazing would not only fuel livestock grazing's contribution to the climate and biodiversity crises, it also runs directly counter to the Biden Administration's 30x30 land conservation agenda by sacrificing what could be protected lands to the commercial livestock industry. These are public lands and should not be used for private profit making.

It is imperative that the Forest Service do the right thing for Wilderness, other public lands, and wildlife by dropping its proposed Rangeland Management Directives. 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.

Thank you for considering my comments.