Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/16/2021 7:21:14 PM First name: L Last name: Freese Organization: Title: Comments: If the Forest Service wishes to amend its directives, the F.S. must undertake a more comprehensive rulemaking process that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act.

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

The Rangeland Management Directives will 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."

Cattle must gradually be phased off of Wilderness and public lands. A program to substitute bison for cattle must be adopted.

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 F.S. grazing policies should encourage and prioritize voluntary grazing permit retirement to reduce permitted livestock grazing across the National Forest system, including in Wilderness, to protect Wilderness, other public lands, and wildlife.

The F.S. should not return grazing to the excessive levels permitted in the 1960s when it is clear conditions cannot support increased, or current, grazing levels.

The F.S. 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 must be prioritized in National Forests and livestock grazing managed so as not to jeopardize species' recovery.

This leftover Trump administration proposal to increase grazing will fuel livestock's contribution to the climate and biodiversity crises and runs directly counter to the Biden Administration's 30x30 land conservation agenda by sacrificing what could be protected lands to the commercial livestock industry.

It is time to stop coddling ranchers and to put the planet before the interests of commercial livestock industry.