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First name: Jerome Last name: Walker Organization:

Title:

Comments: Dear USFS, During the past 30 plus years I've had the pleasure of hiking and camping in multiple wilderness areas that you manage. In many of these areas I've been impressed by the dramatic damage caused by livestock grazing, especially in riparian areas in the arid west. An excellent example would be in the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wildernesses here in New Mexico. Native plants are trashed by livestock and exotic species introduced. Native herbivores have to compete with cattle and sheep, and are invariably the losers. All these cattle and sheep in wilderness areas contribute enormous amounts of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, the very last thing se need. Any enlightened rangeland management plan should make allowance for voluntary retirements of grazing permits. The proposed Rangeland Management Directives appear to be a holdover from the Trump administration and should be drastically revised to take into account the priorities of the current administration and the public, and not just the desires of ranchers. The ultimate goal for the USFS, in my opinion, should be the elimination of ALL grazing allotments in wilderness, and their reduction in other public lands.