Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/16/2021 9:23:52 PM
First name: Carrie
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Dear USDA Forest Service,

I urge you to drop the proposed updates to the Rangeland Management Directives. The proposed updates have the potential to adversely impact millions of acres of public land. The negative impacts of livestock grazing include degraded water quality and soils, the spread of invasive weeds, destruction of riparian and other important habitats, and reduced forage for and displacement of native wildlife. In addition, the current practices of extensive grazing lead directly to confrontations with wildlife. Depredation occurs because livestock are inhabiting land that should be wilderness. Instead of increasing livestock grazing on public lands, you should allow vacant allotments to be permanently closed and should protect Wilderness, other public lands, and wildlife by limiting livestock grazing in National Forests.

More appropriate updates would include encouraging voluntary grazing permit retirement and 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. Furthermore, the recovery of imperiled or threatened species should be prioritized on National Forests, and livestock grazing should be managed so as not to jeopardize species' recovery.

Any amendments to the directives must undergo a more comprehensive rulemaking process that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act, and the 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.

Thank you for your consideration.