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Comments: My experience with grazing in wilderness areas goes back almost 70 years, In the one I am most familiar with, the Eagle Cap, recovery since grazing stopped has been amazing. The inedible grasses have been replaced by more palatable, nutritious grasses and forbs. Deer and elk populations are up and the mountain sheep are back. As a minor point, the meadows don't stink. We must not allow things to go back to where they were in the 1960's.

The USFS should not return grazing to the excessive levels permitted in the 1960s when it is clear conditions oftentimes 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 so as not to jeopardize species' recovery. As an example, domestic sheep and goats cannot be near where there are bighorn sheep.

The Range Management Directives have the potential to 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 "untrammled."

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 grazing permit retirement to reduce permitted livestock grazing across the National Forest system, including within Wilderness, so as to protect Wilderness, other public lands, and wildlife.

If the Forest Service wishes to amend its directives, the Forest Service must undertake a more comprehensive rule making process that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act.