Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/16/2021 9:53:49 PM
First name: Susan
Last name: Westervelt
Organization:
Title:
Comments: *The Rangeland Management Directives affects millions of acres of public land, including Wilderness, where livestock grazing is 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 include voluntary grazing permit retirement to reduce livestock grazing across the National Forest system, including within Wilderness. Wilderness, all public lands, and wildlife must be protected above all other uses.
*The Forest Service must develop policies that ensure the agency will maintain authority for grazing management decisions. Grazing permittees must be held accountable for impacts their livestock has on public lands.
*The recovery of imperiled or threatened species needs to be prioritized on National Forests. Livestock grazing is of far lesser value than all wild species' survival.
*The Trump administration proposal to increase grazing would not only fuel livestock grazing's contribution to the climate and biodiversity crises, but runs directly counter to the Biden Administration's 30x30 land conservation agenda by giving priority to the commercial livestock industry. Instead, priority must be given to the protection and furtherance of public lands, wilderness and wildlife survival.
*The Forest Service must drop its Rangeland Management Directives. Instead, the Forest Service must undertake a more comprehensive rulemaking process that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act if that agency is to amend its directives.