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Comments: I write out of deep concern about the proposed Rangeland Management Directives issued under the previous administration. Having hiked extensively in many of our National Forests over a period of more than 50 years, I have seen first hand the ecological damage and water pollution livestock grazing can cause.

Therefore, I oppose these directives and urge that they be withdrawn and replaced with a new proposal if changes are desired. More specifically, I make the following recommendations:

1. Grazing is fundamentally incompatible with Wilderness designation. The Wilderness Act states that such lands and waters are to be "untrammeled." Grazing significantly alters and degrades the natural conditions in Wilderness and should be phased out in all designated areas.

2. Because of its effects, any new directives should be based on a full assessment of all impacts, including on climate change, from grazing that includes a transparent, public process that complies with federal laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act.

3. The recovery of imperiled or threatened species must be prioritized on National Forests and any livestock grazing managed so as not to jeopardize species' recovery.

4. 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.

5. 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.

I also note that these current proposed directives appear to be contrary to current administration policies regarding reducing climate pollution and the 30X30 approach to preserving biodiversity. So again I urge that these proposed directives be immediately withdrawn. If the Forest Service wishes to amend its directives, the it must undertake a more comprehensive rulemaking process that fully complies with the National Environmental Policy Act.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.