Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/16/2021 9:35:19 PM
First name: Cheryl
Last name: Snyder
Organization:
Title:
Comments: U.S. Forest Service
Forest Management, Range Management and Vegetation Ecology
201 14th Street SW, Suite 3SE
Washington, DC 20250-1124

April 16, 2021

Dear National Forest Services.

I am writing to provide public comment on the Proposed Rangeland Management Directives' Updates.

I urge you to NOT make the following proposed changes in the Updates:

1) under Succession Planning/Recognized Entities:
DO NOT allow Grandchildren, as well as children, to use public lands for permitted numbers. All permits must expire with the children of the current owners, if that is even allowed. I strongly urge you to support a more rapid phase out of the family permits.
I also urge you to NOT ALLOW ANY expansion in, or new, entities eligible to hold permits. There is no need for limited liability companies, family limited partnerships, etc. to have permits for grazing and other public land uses.

2) under Conservation Oriented Flexibilities:
I STRONGLY OPPOSE adding a Section on Conservation Easements and Agricultural Land Trusts. There is absolutely NO NEED to allow ranches to remain in agricultural production (and tax base) in perpetuity. The public lands belong to all of us as taxpayers, not to ranches and businesses.

The Rangeland Management Directives updates must be an opportunity to scale back private use of public lands, for grazing of livestock and other uses. The updates must NOT be a time to continue or strengthen current practices which allow federally protected lands to be used by private entities, including ranchers.

When the Wilderness Act of 1964 was enacted, the environment was in better condition overall, and the harm of private farmers use of public lands for cattle was not understood. Today the negative impacts of livestock grazing are much more clearly understood, including degraded water quality and soils, the spread of invasive weeds, destruction of riparian and other important habitats, reduced forage for and displacement of native wildlife, and much more.

I urge that instead of increasing livestock grazing on public lands in our National Forests, and instead of promising grazing rights to future generations of private entities, that the National Forest Service allow vacant allotments to be permanently closed, and focus on protection of the Wilderness, other public lands, and wildlife.

Thank you for your consideration of my comments and concerns. Remember that the National Forest Service is a USA Government Agency which must be concerned with the greater good.

Sincerely,

Cheryl M Snyder
54 Plain Street
Abington MA 02351