Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/16/2021 11:00:06 PM
First name: Martha
Last name: Larsen
Organization:
Title:
Comments: National forests would be impacted by substantial changes the Forest Service (FS) is proposing for its livestock grazing program. The agency's Rangeland Management Directives have the potential to affect millions of acres of public land, including Wilderness

The FS's proposed revisions would expand grazing across our National Forests and within wilderness by directing vacant allotments to be fully restocked and by returning grazing to the excessive levels permitted in the 1960s, despite conditions that cannot support increased grazing. This is the opposite direction the FS should take-instead of increasing livestock grazing on public lands, the agency should allow vacant allotments to be permanently closed and should protect wilderness, other public lands, and wildlife by limiting, rather than increasing, inappropriate livestock grazing in National Forests.

This leftover Trump administration proposal poses other problems as well. It fails to hold livestock grazers accountable by not setting proper standards to adequately monitor conditions on the ground, and it excludes the public from some grazing decision processes. If all this weren't bad enough, increased 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 sacrificing what could be protected lands to the commercial livestock industry.

I urge the Forest Service to do the right thing to do for Wilderness, other public lands, and wildlife by dropping its proposed Rangeland Management Directives