

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/16/2021 11:37:00 PM

First name: Richard

Last name: Saretsky

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I strongly oppose the proposed the proposed Forest Service Rangeland Management Directives. If implemented they will negatively impact millions of acres of PUBLIC LANDS designated as wilderness where livestock grazing will do significant damage to the ecosystems which are supposed to be left intact and not degraded.

Grazing of livestock on national forest wilderness harms the environment. It is my opinion that before any proposed grazing on wilderness designated or protected lands is permitted the impacts on the land, water and wildlife must be thoroughly evaluated in an open and transparent process where all interested parties have adequate opportunity to comment. This includes complying with federal laws, especially the National Environmental Policy Act.

In order to lessen the negative impacts of national forest livestock grazing, the Forest Service must develop a policy of voluntary retirement of grazing in the national forests. Such a policy will protect wilderness and related public lands from ecological degradation and save wildlife from unnecessary slaughter to placate stock owners. The proposed Rangeland Management Directives would return grazing activities to the careless era of 60 years ago when negative impacts on the land were an afterthought or not considered at all. This is unacceptable considering that land conditions are often incapable of supporting increased or even present grazing levels. Policies must include maintaining authority over grazing management decisions and hold ranchers accountable for the negative impacts of their livestock cause on our public lands. Grazing seriously and negatively impacts the recovery of endangered species and must be properly managed so as not to impact species recovery.

The Forest Service must think of wilderness and environmental protection as a priority. As such the agency not proceed further with its ill conceived Rangeland Management Directives, and begin anew with a rule making process which conforms to the National Environmental Policy Act.