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Comments: In order to protect Wilderness, the Forest Service must drop its proposed Rangeland Management Directives.

The Rangeland Management Directives can significantly affect millions of acres of public land, including Wilderness. In Wilderness, livestock grazing is fundamentally at odds with the mandate of the Wilderness Act that Wilderness remain "untrammeled." Livestock grazing significantly degrades our public lands. Grazing levels should NOT return to the excessive degree permitted in the 1960s when it is clear conditions oftentimes cannot support increased, or even current, grazing levels. The recovery of imperiled or threatened species needs to be prioritized on National Forests and livestock grazing managed so as not to jeopardize species' recovery. Any revisions to Forest Service grazing policies should encourage and prioritize voluntary grazing permit retirement, reducing permitted livestock grazing across the National Forest system, and especially within Wilderness. This would protect Wilderness, other public lands, and wildlife.

The Forest Service needs to create policies whereby the agency maintains authority for grazing management decisions, and permittees are held accountable for the impacts their livestock has on 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.

Thank you for your consideration.