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Comments: The Rangeland Management Directives must be updated to reflect current science and best practices. In particular, it is clear that livestock grazing in National Forests, particularly in wilderness areas, significantly degrades public lands. The volume and extent of grazing has been based on historical practices which are clearly excessive in many areas. Management must be based on the carrying capacities of the particular lands to protect the underlying resources, wildlife and public values. The Forest Service must develop policies that ensure effective oversight of grazing practices and impacts in collaboration with both livestock permitees and public interests, including accountability of such permitees for the impacts of livestock on public lands and resources.

The proposal put forward by the previous administration would unfairly benefit a few livestock interests while increasing resource depletion and erosion of wilderness and other public values, and is in direct conflict with the Biden administration 30 X 30 land conservation agenda. Rather than continuing with this misguided proposal, the Forest Service must drop these proposed Rangeland Management Directives and work with biologists, ranchers and other public lands stakeholders to develop directives that fully comply with the Environmental Policy Act and ensure sustainable management that contributes to climate goals, protects biodiversity and enhances the value of our public lands.