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Comments: The Forest Service should discard this utterly gratuitous, ideological paroxysm leftover from the previous Administration. We understand today, even better than at the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, that most of these places have fragile soil and vegetation, short growing seasons, or otherwise produce minimal biomass for cattle relative to the ecological damage it inflicts. The authors of the Wilderness Act intended that grazing would be phased out over time, with existing ranchers allowed to continue to retirement as a gesture of grace, not for the government to renew grazing permits indefinitely. It is wildly inappropriate for the Forest Service to solicit new grazing applications and invite more management headaches for which it is underfunded and ill-equipped.

This proposal, like other proffered in the waning days of the Trump Administration, is a blunt, noxious expression of a fanatically ideological principle that ecological integrity is irrelevant, that wild creatures have no intrinsic value or right to exist, and that all features of Earth must be fully exploited for financial gain. Such heinously immoral claims have no place in the Forest Service, and now that the agency is unburdened from its ruthless, industrial-authoritarian political overlords, you should waste no time in disposing of this proposal into the bin of history's ideological trash. Our ecological integrity of our Wilderness Areas will be immeasurably improved once relieved of the economically marginal, biologically pathetic grazing operations which still plague them, and the Forest Service should phase them out as quickly as humanely possible.