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Comments:

I am writing to oppose the proposed changes for the Forest Service's livestock grazing program.

*Specifically, the proposed Rangeland Management Directives will harm millions of acres of public land, including designated wilderness, by continuing to authorize livestock grazing. Livestock grazing is not in keeping with the Forest Services' mission to uphold the Wilderness Act. The Wilderness Act specifies that Wilderness remain "untrammelled."

*Degradation of the lands by grazing livestock within National Forests, including millions of acres of wilderness, has been observed firsthand by concerned citizens like me. As a scientist and frequent hiker within public lands, I have personally observed devastation caused by domestic livestock grazing within these areas. Specifically, erosion, pollution, denuded areas of grasslands and endangerment to wildlife and humans within these areas.

*A scientific approach must be made to reveal the true impacts from grazing. The study must be conducted by an independent agency using a transparent, public process. Following the grazing impact study, the Forest Service must undertake a more comprehensive rulemaking process that complies with the National Environmental Policy Act.

*It is essential that our wilderness, public lands and wildlife be protected. There are many imperiled and threatened species that must be recovered and preserved within National Forests and wilderness areas. Therefore, livestock grazing has to be strictly controlled within these areas. Consequently, it is mandatory that revisions to Forest Service grazing policies include and prioritize the retirement of voluntary grazing permits, which will eventually reduce permitted livestock grazing across the National Forest system, including designated wilderness. Additionally, the Forest Service must develop policies that ensure the agency will maintain authority for grazing management decisions and hold grazing permittees accountable for the impacts their livestock has on public lands.

*Finally, I perceive that the proposed revisions of the Rangeland Management Directives will undermine the Biden Administration's 30x30 land conservation agenda. The Forest Service should not be continuing to sacrifice the health of our public lands to the commercial livestock industry.