Data Submitted (UTC 11): 4/17/2021 8:40:55 PM
First name: Lois
Last name: Lommel
Organization:
Title:
Comments: to: USDA, Forest Service
re: Proposed updates to the Rangeland Management Directives to FS Manuel and FS Handbook

I urge you to reject the proposed revisions. Authorizing grazing in wild lands is fundamentally at odds with National Forest Wilderness maintenance and protection. Most of the domestic cattle & sheep are grazing in watersheds unsuited to grazing, having negative impacts on them--degraded soils and water quality, spread of invasive weeds, destruction of riparian and other habitats, displaced native wildlife and their forage.
The revisions would expand grazing across our National Forests and wilderness by directing vacant allotments to be fully restocked, returning grazing to the excessive levels permitted in the 1960's, despite conditions that cannot support increased grazing. This is the opposite direction the Forest Service should be taking; the FS should instead support the permanent closure of the vacant allotments and protect Wilderness, other public lands and wildlife by limiting rather than increasing inappropriate livestock grazing in National Forests. This proposal fails to hold livestock grazers accountable by not setting proper standards to monitor conditions on the ground and it excludes the public from some grazing decision-making processes. Increased grazing will add to the climate and biodiversity crises and runs counter to the Administration's 30X30 land conservation agenda,by giving lands that need protection to the commercial livestock industry.
DROP the proposed Rangeland Management Directives and live up to your mission of protecting public lands, wildlife and our precious and precarious Wilderness!
Thank you for considering my comments.