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First name: Christopher
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Organization:
Title:
Comments: Tuesday, January 4, 2022

Duncan Leao
Acting District Ranger
Bridgeport Ranger District
HC 62 Box 1000
Bridgeport, CA, 93517

Subject: Reject proposal to re-open parts of the Hoover Wilderness to cattle grazing as part of the Bridgeport Southwest Rangeland Project (#49993).

To Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest Supervisor Bill Dunkelberger, Bridgeport Acting District Ranger Duncan Leao, and District Rangeland Manager Aaron Coogan:

I'm writing in strong opposition to the proposal to re-open parts of the Hoover Wilderness to cattle grazing as part of the Bridgeport Southwest Rangeland Project.

"It is horrifying that we have to fight our own government to save the environment."
-- Ansel Adams

First established as a Primitive area in 1931, then a Wild area in 1957, the Hoover Wilderness was officially designated in 1964, making it one of the original members of America's National Wilderness Preservation System.

As you are aware, the area in question has not been grazed for years. Previously, the area was grazed by domestic sheep, but that practice was ended to protect the Sierra bighorn sheep, which is listed as both state and federally endangered. This area is within the Northern Recovery Unit for the Sierra Bighorn sheep.

"Our government is like a rich and foolish spendthrift who has inherited a magnificent estate in perfect order, and then has left his fields and meadows, forests and parks to be sold and plundered and wasted."
-- John Muir

Allowing cattle grazing in the Hoover Wilderness would create substantial impacts to watersheds, native wildlife, and wilderness. For example:
* needed fencing will adversely impact existing habitats and protected species;
* cattle grazing will directly reduce native forage available for wildlife and impact habitats;
* cattle grazing will adversely impact water resources, water quality and riparian areas; cattle grazing will spread invasive weed species;
* cattle grazing will adversely impact recreational users; and
* parts of the grazing allotments are well over 10,000 feet in elevation and unsuitable for grazing by cattle.

It isn't right to compromise the Hoover Wilderness-which belongs to all Americans-to benefit one or a few ranchers, none of whom have relied on it for their livelihood.

"A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

-- Aldo Leopold

Thank you for your consideration of my comments. Please do NOT add my name to your mailing list. I will learn about future developments on this issue from other sources.

Sincerely,
Christopher Lish
San Rafael, CA