

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 12/9/2022 4:28:30 PM

First name: Shenandoah

Last name: Marr

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am writing with concerns about the draft environmental assessment (EA) for the Porter, Pine Canyon, and South Fork La Brea Allotments Project. After 13 years since the project was first announced, the draft EA appears insufficient. Of particular concern to me is the expansion of commercial livestock grazing in these areas, including the San Rafael Wilderness area. Livestock grazing has been shown to adversely affect reptiles, amphibians, fish, and small mammals. Grazing ungulates significantly alter streams, water quality, and topsoil. They may carry non native grass seeds, spreading invasive species which harms native plants and increases susceptibility to wildfires.

I ask that the Forest Service conduct a more in depth analysis for the proposed action, including exploring additional alternatives. At least one alternative needs to be to lower the maximum number of livestock allowed in each of the three allotments, especially where they overlap the San Rafael Wilderness and designated critical habitat for the California red-legged frog and steelhead.

The Forest Service also needs commit to releasing all of the environmental analysis documents prior to or shortly after the beginning of the public comment period for a new draft EA. I am unable to fully understand the basis for many of the findings in the current draft EA due to so many referenced documents being withheld from public consumption. The Forest Service is managing public land, and therefore the public should be able better understand and provide input for decisions on how to manage it.