



BLM RANGELAND MANAGEMENT:

A Guide for Resource Advisory Committee Members



HISTORY OF BLM RANGELAND

- Go West, young man. Go west!
- Mizpah-Pumpkin Creek Grazing District
- Permit system to control uncontrolled domestic livestock grazing



KEY RANGELAND LEGISLATION

- **Taylor Grazing Act of 1934:** established Taylor Grazing Districts; requirements for holding permit/lease; authorized Secretary to collect grazing fees
- **National Environmental Policy Act of 1969:** requires BLM to disclose impacts of actions
- **Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976:** mission statement;
- **Public Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978:** continues need for improvements; recognizes need for monitoring; establishes experimental grazing fee formula



PERMIT QUALIFICATIONS

Requirements established in TGA:

- US Citizen or filed declaration to become citizen or petition for naturalization
- Group or association authorized to conduct business in the State
- Own base property

Title 18 U.S.C. 431-433 (1970)

- Not a member or delegate to US Congress

43 CFR 4100 Changes

- *Added* the ability to control base property
- *Added* the need to have satisfactory Grazing History
- *Removed* the need to be in the livestock business



PERMITTING EXISTING ALLOTMENTS

- **Be basically qualified for a permit/lease**
- **Purchase or lease the base property for an allotment(s)**
- **Have a satisfactory grazing history**
- **Don't be a member or delegate to Congress**
- **Apply within 90 days**



**PERMITTING
VACANT OR NEW
ALLOTMENTS**

- **Same as for existing allotments**
- **Provide documents that the BLM requests such as grazing plan**
- **Understand that your application may be one of many**
- **This is a lengthy process**



PERMIT TERMS AND CONDITIONS

- Identifies how many animals during a specified period
- Identifies how many AUMs (Animal Unit Months, or how much forage a cow with calf need per month)
- Describes livestock management on the allotment(s)
- Term is 3-10 years



PROHIBITED ACTS

Common Violations:

- Grazing without a permit or a paid bill
- Violating terms and conditions of permit/lease and range improvement cooperative agreements/permits
- Unauthorized subleasing
- Installing or removing range improvements without authorization
- Interfering with lawful uses of users by force, threat, intimidation, signs, barrier or locked gates

See 43 CFR 4140 for complete list



PERMIT FEES

- **Taylor Grazing Act of 1934:** authorized Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to collect fees and how they would be distributed
- **Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976:** Feasibility study of fees
- **Public Rangeland Improvement Act of 1978:** implemented a formula to be used from 1979 thru 1985
- **Presidential Executive Order 12548:** made it permanent
- The Fee Formula (43 CFR 4130.8 Fees) is as follows:

$$CF = \$1.23 \times (FVI + BCPI - PPI) / 100$$

CF= Calculated Fee

\$1.23 is the base value from Western Livestock Grazing Survey

FVI= Forage Value Index from USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service

BCPI= Beef Cattle Price Index

PPI= Prices Paid Index



MONITORING AND LAND HEALTH

- **Overgrazing** is historic and current problem
- **Rangeland Reform Act of 1994**
- **RAC direction to BLM** to address poor range conditions
- **Standards for Rangeland Health 4180 regulations** was the BLM's response to RAC direction
- **Public Lands Council MOU** allows permittees to provide monitoring data to BLM

A photograph of three people standing in a field, looking towards the right. The person in the foreground is a woman wearing a blue tank top, a grey cap, and sunglasses, with her arms crossed. Behind her are two men, also wearing caps and sunglasses. The background shows a dry, grassy field under a clear blue sky.

MANAGING FOR THE FUTURE

- Continue to **issue grazing permits** and leases with full analysis
- Changing **flexibility** needs to respond to ever changing demands
- **Rangeland Health** expansions
- Finding **efficiencies** as different pressures change BLM focus or priorities



QUESTIONS?

Resources:

www.blm.gov

Field office representatives

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