

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 13, 2026

Secretary Doug Burgum
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Chief Stevan Pearce
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Chief Tim Schultz
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

Comment in Response to the Proposed Rule, "Revision of Regulations for Grazing Administration, Exclusive of Alaska" ([May 12, 2026](#))

Dear Secretary Burgum, Chief Pearce, and Chief Schultz:

Thank you for advancing President Trump's efforts to restore common-sense management of America's public lands and remove unnecessary barriers that have burdened our nation's ranchers for far too long. We commend the Department for recognizing the central role that livestock grazing plays in supporting domestic food production, land stewardship, and rural economies.

Last December, we sent a letter urging the Department to review rules, regulations, and policies that have unnecessarily burdened cattle producers and hindered efforts to rebuild America's cattle herd. We asked that the Department identify and eliminate policies that restrict grazing, create regulatory uncertainty, and undermine America's food security. We are encouraged that this proposed rule reflects those priorities by streamlining grazing administration, reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens, and providing greater certainty for ranchers who depend on access to federal lands.

These reforms are especially important for Arizona, where ranching remains a cornerstone of the state's economy and heritage. Arizona is home to nearly 5,900 cattle operations and approximately 930,000 cattle and calves, generating more than \$1.26 billion in annual cash receipts.¹ Grazing also accounts for roughly 73% of the state's land area and 98% of its agricultural land², making continued access to well-managed federal grazing allotments essential for many family ranches.

¹ U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (USDA NASS), 2024 State Agriculture Overview: Arizona https://www.nass.usda.gov/Quick_Stats/Ag_Overview/stateOverview.php?state=ARIZONA

² Kerna, Ashley, Frisvold, George, Tronstad, Russell & Teegerstrom, Trent. (2014). The Contribution of the Beef Industry to the Arizona Economy. The Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics, The University of Arizona. <https://rightsstatements.org/vocab/InC/1.0/>

The proposed rule recognizes that well-managed livestock grazing is essential to healthy public lands. Grazing reduces hazardous wildfire fuels, limits invasive species, improves watershed conditions, promotes biodiversity, and regenerates soil health. Ranchers are not an obstacle to conservation – they are among our nation's most effective land stewards.

As BLM finalizes this rule, we also encourage continued coordination across the Administration to identify additional opportunities to reduce regulatory burdens affecting livestock producers, including those associated with Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Ranchers routinely encounter permitting delays when constructing or maintaining stock ponds, water developments, erosion control structures, stream crossings, fencing, and other routine improvements necessary to responsible grazing management. President Trump has made rebuilding America's cattle herd and restoring domestic food production, clear national priorities. This rule is an important step toward achieving those goals.

We commend the Department for its commitment to restoring common-sense land management policies. We respectfully urge you to finalize this rule in a manner that provides lasting certainty for grazing permittees, strengthens America's food security, and supports responsible stewardship of our public lands. These reforms will help sustain rural communities, improve land management, and ensure that America's ranchers can continue feeding our nation for generations to come.

Sincerely,



Andy Biggs
Member of Congress



Elijah Crane
Member of Congress



Juan Ciscomani
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress