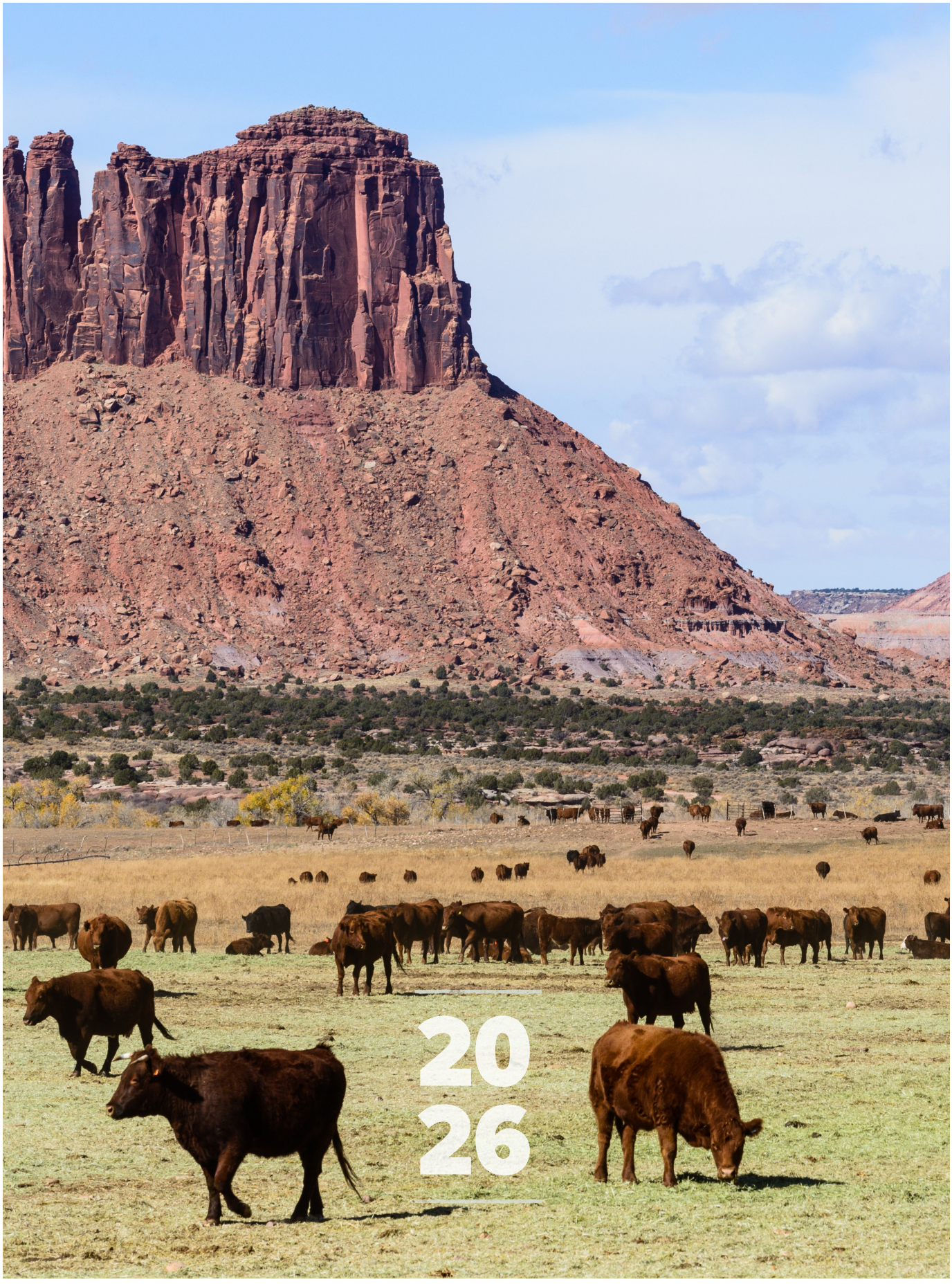

2026



The definitive voice for public lands ranchers.

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About Us

Since 1968, the Public Lands Council has been the only national organization solely dedicated to representing cattle and sheep producers who hold approximately 22,000 federal grazing permits across the West. Public lands ranchers face unique political, environmental, and economic challenges, and we work with government policymakers and private-sector partners to reach creative policy solutions.

> **“Public lands ranchers form the backbone of many rural communities and local economies while leading the way in responsible and innovative stewardship of some our nation’s most iconic landscapes.”**

Our Vision

The definitive voice for public lands ranchers.

Our Mission

PLC works to support and maintain livestock grazing on public lands by advocating for and educating decision makers of the many values livestock grazing contributes to our natural resources and to the public.

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ASSOCIATION OF NATIONAL GRASSLANDS

Wes Obergewitch
NORTH DAKOTA

Dr. J.J. Goicoechea
NATIONAL CATTLEMEN’S BEEF ASSOCIATION

Letter from the President

Friends,

From the grasslands of the Dakotas and Canada to the West and East Coasts, and everywhere in between, this past year has taken me all over. It's given me the opportunity to sit down with producers, listen to permittees, and hear their stories about what's happening on the ground. I've listened to their concerns, and I've fought for them and alongside them every day.

If I had to describe this year in two words, they would be humbling and honoring. I am truly honored to have had the opportunity to serve and speak on behalf of this organization and the men and women who steward our public lands.

> **"When we look back at this past year, we have a lot to celebrate. From new grazing regulations and ESA reform to MOUs, we have accomplished so many of the goals we set. While I may have had the privilege of serving as president, these accomplishments belong to all of us."**

We worked together, and we got it done.

That is what makes me so excited about what comes next. PLC is strongest when our membership is engaged, when we bring our experiences to the table, and when we stand together for the future of public lands ranching. The work we have done this year gives us a strong foundation to build on.

I have had the opportunity to work alongside many of the leaders who are stepping up to carry this organization forward, and I can tell you that PLC is in great hands. There is a bright future ahead of us, and I am proud to have played a part in it.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve, and thank you for continuing to do what you do every day for your families, your operations and the lands we all care so deeply about.

Tim Canterbury

TIM CANTERBURY
President





Letter from the Executive Director

Friends,

The last year has tested even the toughest producer. There have been peaks: policy wins, high sale prices, and expanding families; and also the deepest valleys: widespread drought, intense fire, and uncertainty around every turn. In the midst of all the activity of the last year, one thing remains constant: the future is built on the investments of yesterday and all the days before.

This year, I heard from all corners of the West how folks had never seen it this dry, only to have them call me back a week later and marvel at the explosion and vitality of a range that had gotten just a little bit of moisture. Cracked and dry soil gave way to fast-growing green shoots, revealing the amazing resiliency of our rugged land and the people who manage it. Whether it's the land or passage of a longstanding Congressional priority, it is abundantly evident that consistency over time is far more important than a short term, flash in the pan. You may not see it in the moment, or the next week, or the next year, but all of that good work comes home to roost when it matters most.

This principle was on full display this last year. PLC has been relentless in our advocacy for improved grazing regulations in both the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service for the last 30 years.

> **"This year, we've seen substantive improvements and a whole-of-government commitment to farmers and ranchers across the country like never before. This work isn't the product of eleventh-hour engagement or last-ditch asks – it's a hard-won step forward borne from years of consistent messaging from tens of thousands of ranchers."**

PLC invests in policy, in people, and in systems that serve to protect our way of life today, tomorrow, and thirty years from now. 2026 is a testament to all the work done since 1968, and all the opportunity we have ahead.



KAITLYNN GLOVER
Executive Director

Financial Report

For the last 58 years, the Public Lands Council has clearly demonstrated that a national trade association is only as effective as its grassroots components. As an affiliate-based organization, PLC draws from our 14-member states and 3 national affiliates to build both our policy book as well as a groundswell of engagement that ensures all federal lands grazing permittees and lessees see themselves in the policy outcomes we seek.

The cooperative relationship between national PLC and state affiliates was on full display this year. Following significant progress in 2025 surrounding the USDA-DOI Grazing Action Plan and initiatives to improve administration of grazing programs in both agencies, PLC saw an opportunity to leverage our strong state network to help the agencies gather direct feedback from permittees at scale to inform the implementation of the Plan.

“ PLC hosted 13 roundtables across the West, gathering input from more than 800 permittees on what the future of grazing should look like.

These roundtables were planned and delivered in close coordination with our respective state affiliates and partner organizations to maximize participation across all permittees, not just those who read our newsletter each week. ”

For minimal financial outlay, these roundtables significantly increased the profile of national PLC, resulting in increased subscription to our publications and projected increases in dues payments for affected states.

Keeping with the theme of affiliate support, this year PLC retained a remote contractor to support affiliates through a variety of functions. Over the last several years, it’s become clear that affiliates have different needs: administrative and governance support, communications development, meeting planning, and constituent casework. The contractor was able to support state affiliates through some foundational transitions in financial and policy management, develop communications materials for newsletters and state PLC-specific publications, and grant related material.

Last year’s transition to a rolling application process for grant funding was successful, and PLC was able to contract mid-year with a communications professional to perform social media content planning, plan and execute video content for policy and promotional goals, and improve the quality of our targeted media outreach. Looking ahead, I’m encouraged that a year-long application model will serve PLC’s needs well and allow us to respond nimbly to funding opportunities for industry support, research, and leadership goals.

Each PLC state affiliate contributes annual dues based on a billing calculation of 1.3 cents per animal unit month (AUM) permitted by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) or the U.S. Forest Service for federal lands grazing in their state. These funds directly fund PLC’s policy work in Washington, D.C., educating policymakers about our industry, and influencing the decisions of legislators and regulators. Our affiliate dollars also help PLC leverage contributions from sponsors, partners, and other supporters.

This year, the cattle and sheep industries faced truly unique challenges. Small herd sizes, trade challenges, animal health events, and an ever-changing regulatory platform were coupled by higher-than-average returns for cow-calf producers and new market opportunities for sheep producers. All of this change could have disrupted federal lands grazing permittees’ confidence in the future of grazing. Instead, we saw our members capitalize on the opportunities in front of us to build stronger industry alliances and in-state infrastructure to ensure the next 58 years of PLC are even stronger than the last.



BRENDA RICHARDS
Treasurer





For nearly three decades, little has changed around federal lands grazing infrastructure, permitting, and investment. This year, however, federal agencies heeded the call to address longstanding needs.

In late 2025, the Departments of Agriculture, Interior, Health and Human Services, and the Small Business Administration published the Plan to Fortify the American Beef Industry: Strengthening Ranches, Rebuilding Capacity, and Lowering Costs for Consumers. Key to this plan was the USDA-DOI Grazing Action Plan, which built on PLC's decades of advocacy in taking meaningful steps to address the practical barriers that have caused uncertainty for cattle and sheep producers across the West.

PLC worked with USFS and BLM to support accurate inventory of vacant allotments, identify allotments where stocking rates did not match available forage – particularly those with stocking rates where reductions were based in politics, rather than ecology.

USDA-DOI Commitment to Grazing

PLC President Tim Canterbury and Immediate Past President Mark Roeber spoke to the need and value of the transformational platform USDA and DOI had adopted when Secretaries Rollins and Burgum signed the USDA-DOI Grazing Memorandum of Understanding in March 2026.





PLC-BLM Cooperative Monitoring MOU



Across the West, permittees are doing daily assessments of their rangeland conditions to ensure their management creates desirable conditions this year, next, and well into the future. PLC and federal agencies have long partnered on cooperative monitoring. PLC renewed our MOU with USFS in 2022.

In January, PLC and BLM renewed our mutual commitment to a cooperative monitoring program that empowers grazing permittees to college rangeland management data that informs future management, and have that data be used in the agency's decision documents as if the agency had collected the data themselves. This agreement builds agency capacity, increases the body of science available for agency decision making, and puts grazing permittees in a position of leadership to defend their management, the condition of the allotment, and the cooperative decisions they make with the agency every year. The data shows: **grazing is good**.

Elevating Rural Leadership in Grazing

PLC hosted 13 roundtables during spring 2026 to assist USDA and DOI in fulfilling their mission to give ranchers a voice in grazing, land management, and locally-led rangeland health solutions. Hosted in areas where permittees live, work, and spend their lives caretaking the land, **PLC brought together more than 800 individual permittees** and gathered virtual input from hundreds more. Feedback ranged from appreciation for local agency partners and successful local initiatives to high-conflict issues that needed immediate resolutions.









PLC provided comprehensive recommendations to both Departments and the respective land management agencies, which ranged from simple process improvements like trackers for range projects to prevent internal approval delays, to policy changes to increase transparency, efficiency, and staff training.



From the West to Washington.

Elevating the visibility of grazing as a primary management tool and important part of rural stability has been a cornerstone of our advocacy since 1968. In 2026, that message was evident across Washington, whether at Ag Day or various land use-related events this year.

Legislative Conference

The Legislative Conference continues to be a cornerstone event for ranchers from across the West to bring issues to lawmakers and regulators in Washington. In addition to our own natural resource-specific programming, PLC leverages participation in our national affiliates' fly-ins to bring the full force of the cattle and sheep industries to bear on Western priorities.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AT WHITE HOUSE AG DAY

Policy Connections

Congressional staff are the powerhouse of Congressional activity, and PLC's work with staff transcends issue-specific discussions. From bipartisan policy briefings for specific committees, to regionally-focused dialogues, PLC prioritizes staff education alongside political advocacy. For the last decade, PLC has partnered with western lawmakers through the Congressional and Senate Western Caucuses to maintain strong relationships with one of the largest voting blocks in Congress. This year, PLC's briefings included background for staff on decades-old laws that have significant modern impacts like the Endangered Species Act and National Environmental Policy Act, and others examining thy dynamics between the Taylor Grazing Act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and other land policy.

Legislative Advocacy

The 119th Congress has been one of the friendliest in recent memory for grazing-related legislation and Western land use priorities. Early House passage of the **Fix Our Forests Act** set the stage for comprehensive conversations in the Senate on prescribed grazing, forest management, and improved wildfire tools. Many of these concepts permeated the various Farm Bill discussions and manifested in proposed investments in satellite infrastructure, targeted grazing programs, and infrastructure tools.

For the first time in several years, Congress considered bills related to reform of the **Equal Access to Justice Act** to reduce the potential to weaponize EAJA payments that have funded radical activist obstruction of strong rangeland management policy. With text established, expanding support and pursuing passage will be a high priority when the 120th Congress gavels in.

Congressional testimony is one of the best ways to have a direct conduit of local information to the ears of Congressional committees. This year, PLC brought several permittees to speak directly to legislation affecting their local areas: →



ANG'S TY CHECKETTS AND SENATOR JOHN BARRASSO (R-WY)

Grasslands Grazing Act

Association of National Grasslands President and Wyoming Rancher Ty Checketts testified in both the House and Senate in support of the Grasslands Grazing Act. The bill would provide parity to permittees and associations who graze on national grasslands since grasslands permittees have long had a less secure negotiating position around their permits than permittees on National Forest or BLM lands.



PERMITTEE TIM ERICKSON

H.R.8454 (California Land Exchange Bill)

California/Colorado permittee Tim Erickson provided crucial testimony to support a commonsense land transfer in northern California that would resolve unconventional boundaries between the Park Service and the Forest Service while providing key access to road and fence infrastructure for him and neighboring communities.

Policy Work

Regulatory

While PLC policy objectives primarily center around changes to statute, regulatory expectations are a hallmark of ranchers' daily management. In 2026, PLC's advocacy has resulted in key process improvements for grazing regulations, depredation confirmation and payments, permitting processes, and more.



COMPLETE

ESA 4(d)

Rescission of the blanket 4(d) rule will allow ranchers and agency partners the flexibility to address the true needs of species without subjecting all "threatened" species to the restrictive conditions imposed on "endangered" listing.

BLM Sage Grouse RODs

After more than a decade of uncertainty, finalization of the Records of Decision for 77 Resource Management Plans across 10 Western states provided an expectation for sustainability and predictability in managing resource threats.

ESA 4(b)(2)

Inclusion of economic and social costs in agency consideration of endangered species' protections, like critical habitat designations, will make these decisions more durable. Conservation cannot happen in a vacuum and must take into account support from the local area.

USDA-DOI Grazing Wins

Across initiatives in 2026, key wins from PLC policy included: establishment of a "no net loss of AUMs" policy, inventory and investments in restocking or reclassifying vacant allotments, and support for mentor/mentee programs to bring producers into allotments.

USFS Grazing Directives

At the conclusion of a years-long process to revise the rangeland handbook and directives that govern grazing across the National Forest System, permittees and associations celebrated strengthened tools for local management and improved access to agency resources.

Predator Relief

PLC's focus has always been securing and defending delisting of recovered species while directing voluntary investment toward imperiled species. Providing ranchers relief from delayed processes, confirming depredations, and streamlining producer compensation marked a conclusion to years-long work.

IN PROGRESS

BLM Grazing Regulations

Following more than 30 years of BLM regulations capitulating to calls for federal lands to be "Cattle Free by [19]93", PLC's advocacy improved grazing regulations and established an expectation that Land Health Standards be applied across all uses, not just grazing. PLC looks forward to finalizing these regulations in early 2027.

Wildlife Refuge Grazing Policies

This year, the Fish and Wildlife Service undertook an evaluation of the Wildlife Refuge System across the country, and inventoried refuges where grazing was included as part of the refuge's purpose, but had not been included in routine management efforts. State PLC advocacy was crucial in elevating issues at specific refuges across the country.

New World Screwworm

The U.S. documented the first case of New World Screwworm in several decades this summer. Long before its arrival, PLC worked with industry and partners to ensure federal protocols included robust material that laid out expectations and communication for grazing in the event NWS was found near or on federal land. PLC's 2022-2025 engagement on Secure Beef and Secure Sheep Supply Plans paved the way for inclusion in the Playbook.

RESCINDED

BLM Public Lands Rule

In perhaps the most significant victory of the year, BLM heeded the call of PLC and our partners to rescind the ill-conceived 2024 Public Lands Rule, which would have allowed agencies to restructure management of public lands and disallow grazing at some point in the not-too-distant future. Elimination of this policy set the stage for good policy development like revised planning processes, grazing regulations revisions, and so much more.

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF
RANGELANDS AND
PASTORALISTS
2026

Celebrating the

Guardians of Grazing Lands

Rangelands and grasslands cover more than 770 million acres in the United States, and nearly half of the Earth's land mass. These lands are home to diverse wildlife, productive livestock, and people whose careful management has cultivated and stewarded these lands for generations.

The **International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists (IYRP)** celebrates farmers, ranchers, herders, shepherds, and other pastoralists who use the land to produce food and fiber. Designated by the United Nations and supported by nearly 500 organizations, 2026 provides an opportunity to celebrate these vast lands, heritage, and their people.

As the voice for US pastoralists, PLC brought together producers and government officials from across the country to fulfill the overall goals set by the IYRP assembly:

- *Increase public awareness of the societal value derived from rangelands and pastoralists.*
- *Promote pastoralist knowledge, innovation and coalition building to meet contemporary needs.*
- *Advocate for evidence-based policy and legislation that supports sustainable stewardship and pastoralist livelihoods.*
- *Foster ethical investment to address challenges confronting rangelands and pastoralists in the 21st century.*

North American Women's Pastoralist Gathering





In February, PLC Executive Director Kaitlynn Glover moderated the North American Women's Pastoralist Gathering that brought together hundreds of women in person and online from Canada, Mexico, and the United States for a common cause: discuss rangeland management and livestock stewardship priorities from the perspective of individuals who comprise a significant portion of agriculture producers on the continent. PLC Secretary Robbie LeValley and Treasurer Brenda Richards elicited discussion from producers who contract graze goats, have large public lands grazing operations, and those whose family operations are still growing.

Congressional Resolutions

All year, PLC partnered with the Society for Range Management to raise Congressional visibility on the United States' role as a global leader in food and fiber production, science-based management, and strong partnerships for rangeland management. Bipartisan resolutions in the House and Senate gained widespread support, complementing the dozens of state and local resolutions and declarations celebrating the work ranchers do every day. Thanks to our congressional champions Representatives Maloy (R-UT) and Costa (D-CA) and Senators Lujan (D-NM) and Lummis (R-WY).

STEWARDSHIP.
HERITAGE.
OPPORTUNITY.

America250

Today, ranchers manage nearly 250 million acres across the West, including public and private land, continuing a long tradition of working lands stewardship that has shaped the American landscape for generations.

Public lands ranchers serve as a frontline defense against catastrophic wildfire, invasive species, and other threats to the health of America's rangelands. Through active management and responsible grazing, they help maintain open space, support wildlife habitat, and sustain the productivity of these vast landscapes.

In recognition of America's 250th anniversary, PLC used its communications channels to highlight the people, places and traditions that have shaped America's ranching heritage. We shared the connection between public lands ranching and the history, stewardship and opportunity that define working landscapes across the West.

America250 provided an opportunity to celebrate 250 years of American history, but it was also a chance to recognize the ranching families who have helped care for these lands for generations and continue to contribute to the resilience and character of America's public lands today.



Tim Canterbury

PASSION. ENERGY. INNOVATION.

It's impossible to pick one word to describe Tim Canterbury.

Tim has lived a thousand lives so far, but he never lets his broad experience stand in the way of the need to adapt to the land and innovate in response to an ever-changing world. During his time on the PLC Board of Directors and extending through his leadership of the national organization from 2024-2026, Canterbury has often been the voice pushing others to dig deep, think hard, and step up for the public lands grazing industry.

The Canterbury family's history in Colorado is long. Tim tells stories of his father and grandfather and the big shoes they left for him and his siblings to fill.



TIM TESTIFIES BEFORE CONGRESS IN FEB. 2025

"Tim has been much more than an outstanding leader for the Public Lands Council. He has been a trusted mentor, advocate, and friend to so many of us across the West.

His bold leadership, willingness to tackle difficult issues head-on, unwavering resolve, and deep understanding of the challenges facing public lands ranchers have strengthened our industry in countless ways. He has never backed down from standing up for producers or fighting for the future of ranching.

Colorado is incredibly grateful for his years of service and the lasting legacy he leaves behind. On behalf of the Colorado Cattlemen's Association and Colorado Public Lands Council, we congratulate Tim and thank you for all he has done for ranching, from his local community, across Colorado, and around the nation."

ERIN SPAUR
CCA Executive Vice President

"It's been a great twenty years working with Tim and I've learned a lot about both agriculture and organizational culture from him.

I joined the UAWCD board the same year as Tim - 2006. We soon found that he grazed the same riverside property that my fly-fishing company leased for stream access and this helped us work collaboratively to bridge the gap between two very different worlds. That formed the basis for a trusted relationship that grew into us "co-chairing" our water district board. In 2024 the board hired me as the new General Manager and Tim became my boss.

He has loved being president of PLC and we look forward to refocusing him on our local challenges in his "retirement"!"

GREG FELT
Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District
General Manager

While his family built a legacy of stewardship and community support in the county, Tim doubled down on that history to build the operation he and Rhonda call home today.



TIM SPEAKS AT THE NORTH AMERICAN GRAZING CONFERENCE IN MAY 2026

"When Tim speaks, the room listens – not because he has a platform with PLC, but because the passion and dedication that he brings to this work comes from a lifetime of making the same choice, every day, year after year, to bring his best ideas to the table for the good of the industry."

His commitment is evident in the intensity of his remarks. Everyone who meets him remarks on his enthusiasm for complex issues and his desire to make progress – however incremental.

Whether due to his willingness to share virtual fencing tips, his history of water policy leadership, or his candor on the state of affairs, it has been my pleasure to work with Tim for the past 6 years.

KAITLYNN GLOVER
PLC Executive Director

Investing in the Next Generation

Nick Theos Scholars

Each year, PLC makes the Nick Theos Scholarship available to students to support their participation in our annual legislative conference here in Washington, D.C. These funds make it possible for young people interested in Western issues, public lands ranching, and natural resources policy to attend briefings and issue updates from agency officials, congressional staff, and policy experts. This year's recipients were **Cashlyn English** from Wyoming and **Tayla Wiedeman** from Colorado.

> **"This experience sharpened my focus on public lands and agricultural law, reinforcing my commitment to serving Western ranching communities.**
>
> The Nick Theos Scholarship allowed me to travel to Washington, D.C. with the Wyoming Stock Growers Association to experience agricultural policymaking firsthand. I met Wyoming's congressional delegation, industry leaders, and fellow Western producers. I'm grateful to the Public Lands Council for selecting me as the 2026 Scholar and to WSGA for their mentorship."

CASHLYN ENGLISH
(2026 Nick Theos Scholar)



> **"This incredible experience has provided me with new horizons that I am looking forward to pursuing, including law school, and has helped me grow exponentially as a professional.**
>
> I look forward to staying involved with the Public Lands Council and the impact that I can make going forward for our American farmers and ranchers."

TAYLA WIEDEMAN
(2026 Nick Theos Scholar)



Policy Internships

Each spring, summer, and fall, PLC hosts two interns every semester here in our Washington, D.C. office to learn directly from our Government Affairs team. Over the course of several months, they work with our policy team and contribute to our policy work, social media campaigns, and association management.

> **"Interning with PLC gave me an incredible opportunity to explore agriculture policy in the nation's capital.**
>
> I learned about the various challenges and policy discussions occurring within ag spaces. As a PLC intern, I assisted in communicating relevant news and information to help keep members informed. I also attended congressional meetings where I got to see policy construction and debate. While this was great, the best part of the internship was connecting with ranchers from across the country and learning how best to represent them. I am truly grateful for the PLC staff and the amazing internship!"

KENDALL BREAULT
(Winter 2025)



> **"My internship with PLC was a truly eye-opening experience into the world of agriculture policy in Washington, D.C.**
>
> Being able to see firsthand the importance of ranchers having a voice on the Hill taught me the immense value of grassroots associations. This internship demonstrated how collaboration and cooperation are key to the success of our industry. Throughout the spring, I had the opportunity to research legislation, write policy letters, and meet with industry leaders to further the missions of both PLC. I cannot thank the staff enough for their guidance and support during my time there."

MADELINE DRAKE
(Spring 2026)



> **"Watching the PLC team engage in federal policy discussions and advocate for the interests of the hardworking men and women who steward our public lands was both educational and inspiring.**
>
> Growing up in the Midwest, I came into this internship with limited knowledge of public lands ranching. Over the course of the summer, I not only gained a deeper understanding of the vital role public lands ranching plays in supporting rural communities in the West, conserving working landscapes, and strengthening America's food supply, but I also had a front-row seat to the policy work that makes it all possible.
>
> This experience strengthened my interest in agricultural policy and reignited my commitment to preserving family agricultural legacies for future generations. I am incredibly grateful for the mentorship and growth opportunities this internship provided me this summer and will carry the lessons I have learned with me into law school and throughout my career."

EMILY MEYER
(Summer 2026)



> **"Watching the team work directly with ranchers and share their stories in Washington, D.C. to help lawmakers better understand the challenges they face every day, has been inspiring.**
>
> Coming to Washington, D.C., from a town with no stoplights was eye-opening. As a small-town ranch kid from Oklahoma, I never imagined I belonged here. This internship showed me everyone has a place and voice. I will forever be thankful for this opportunity, and I hope that one day I can give back to this organization as much as it has given to me."

JOSEPH BOLES
(Summer 2026)



NATIONWIDE IMPACT:
BY THE NUMBERS

Facebook

820K
TOTAL VIEWS

+ 305.1%
NET FOLLOWS INCREASE

8,500+
FOLLOWERS

Instagram

193K
TOTAL VIEWS

+ 100.1%
INTERACTION INCREASE

1,300+
FOLLOWERS

X

15.4%
FOLLOWER INCREASE

Email

731K
EMAILS DELIVERED

5.2K
SUBSCRIBERS

36%
AVG. OPEN RATE
(INDUSTRY RATE 11%)


EST
1968
PUBLIC LANDS
COUNCIL