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PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL

2027 POLICY BOOK

Last Revised: September 18, 2026

Policies are denoted by date of adoption or renewal. Policies are valid for five years, after which they expire automatically if no action is taken to renew them. Committees may act to revise or rescind policies at any time, regardless of adoption or expiration date. The actions of the committees must be ratified by a vote of General Voting Delegates.

Commonly Used Acronyms

AUM	Animal Unit Month
APHIS *(Parent: USDA)*	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service
APA	Administrative Procedure Act of 1946
ANG	Association of National Grasslands
ARS	Agricultural Research Service *(Parent: USDA)*
ASI	American Sheep Industry Association
BLM	Bureau of Land Management *(Parent: DOI)*
DOI	U.S. Department of the Interior
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	Endangered Species Act of 1973
FLPMA	Federal Land Policy and Management of 1976
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service *(Parent: DOI)*
NCBA	National Cattlemen's Beef Association
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NFMA	National Forest Management Act of 1976
PLC	Public Lands Council
TGA	Taylor Grazing Act of 1934
USDA	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USFS	U.S. Forest Service *(Parent: USDA)*
WS	Wildlife Services *(Parent: USDA-APHIS)*

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Property Related

PLC-100
2026
ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE AUMs AND REISSUANCE OF PREFERENCE AND GRAZING PERMITS AND AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, a preference status for current permittees on public lands is desirable and necessary for continued operation of ranch business, and

WHEREAS, PLC is aware that on certain USFS and BLM allotments that the surrender of grazing preference, leases, permits, and agreements by the permittee has resulted in the exclusion of livestock usage from substantial areas in western states in violation of multiple use principles,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges USFS and BLM to give first preference for permits and leases to present or neighboring permittees rather than entities that have no water or land base property or year-round operation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC demands the reissuance of surrendered grazing preference, leases, permits, and agreements to qualified permittees, in accordance with USFS and BLM regulations, the Taylor Grazing Act, the Organic Act, and Bankhead Jones Act.

PLC-101
2026
CHANGES IN AREA OF USE

WHEREAS, there is a concerted effort by BLM and permittees to improve the range resource, and

WHEREAS, efforts are being made to improve relations between governmental agencies and re-establish trust and confidence in BLM and USFS, and

WHEREAS, isolated instances of transfers of grazing rights have been made from one established area of use to another area of established use and other transfers are being contemplated, and

WHEREAS, the discussions are generating a degree of mistrust and reluctance of permittees to develop and manage the range resource to its maximum potential,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes the transfer of AUMs from one area of established use to another area of established use without close consultation with, and approval of, the permittees involved.

PLC-102
2026
UNWILFUL TRESPASS

WHEREAS, many range boundaries are presently un-fenced and fences/gates are often opened by persons other than grazing permittees, and

WHEREAS, timely control of livestock may be hampered, resulting in unwilful trespass,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that nonmonetary settlement in lieu of trespass fees should be an option in instances where unauthorized use occurred through no fault of the livestock operator.

PLC-103
2022
RANGE IMPROVEMENT AND BETTERMENT FUNDS

WHEREAS, federal land ranchers believe rangeland improvements are long overdue and have a high priority for funding, and

WHEREAS, range betterment funds on USFS lands and range improvement funds on BLM lands are being allocated to non-rangeland improvement uses at an ever-increasing rate, and

WHEREAS, proper expenditure of range betterment and improvement funds can greatly increase the productivity of the western rangelands, and

WHEREAS, renewal of grazing permits is directly dependent on properly functioning improvements, and

WHEREAS, BLM Section 8l00 and USFS range betterment funds should not be used for administrative purposes,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC pursues needed allocation of range improvement and betterment funds, prioritized by and for grazing permittees, by the land management agencies for critical improvements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC urges Congress to make funds available as authorized by the provisions of the Rangelands Improvement Act and urge the administration to make every effort to expedite Congressional action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC calls for continuous accounting of all BLM Section 8100 and USFS range betterment funds to determine whether said funds have been and continue to be spent on on-the-ground improvements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC urges land management agencies to be very sparing in the use of punitive actions against grazing permittees when deteriorated improvements are a matter of concern, and that they communicate openly with permittees in acknowledgement of the good faith efforts of permittees to rebuild, construct, repair, and enhance allotment improvements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that when public funds are not available from USFS or BLM for range improvements and the permittee is willing to totally or partially fund the cost of an authorized improvement, such improvement becomes the property of the permittee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that regulatory changes be made to permit an expedited and prioritized procedure for implementation of privately funded improvements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that records be kept of private improvements, and that permittee's financial contribution be recognized.

PLC-104
2026
FEDERAL GRAZING PERMIT VALUES

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has consistently recognized the value of the federal grazing permit for purposes of estate taxation and capital gains rates, and

WHEREAS, any appraisal of a federal lands ranching operation considers the value of the federal grazing permit, and

WHEREAS, the value of the federal grazing permit is an integral component of any negotiations for the sale, purchase, or lease of a federal lands ranch, or lending activity related thereto, and

WHEREAS, the collateral in ranch loan portfolios of many western lending institutions is partially comprised of the values allocated to federal grazing permits, and

WHEREAS, the BLM's 1993 Incentive Based Grazing Fee Report stresses how critical the permit value is to the cost of acquiring a federal lands ranching operation, and

WHEREAS, federal lands management agencies persistently disregard the cost of acquiring federal grazing permits, and disregard the recognition given to the permit by the IRS, lending agencies and professional rural appraiser,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC aggressively pursues a resolution of the current discrepancy between federal land management agencies and the IRS on the treatment of federal grazing permit values.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the cases of permitted livestock numbers being reduced, permits being taken by a federal agency, or permits being subsequently issued to a different party, that the permittee:

1. Be commensurately compensated for loss of AUMs at the same values as the Internal Revenue Service has determined, or
2. Be allowed by the IRS to use the loss as a capital loss at the time the cut is implemented, or
3. Receive fair market value by appraisal from the agencies or subsequent permitted entity for cuts in AUMs not related to range conditions.

PLC-105
2026
LEASING FOREST SERVICE GRAZING PERMITS

WHEREAS, current USFS policy inadvertently restricts continuity of ownership of ranching operations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges USFS to allow the leasing of grazing permits when the base property is leased by an individual if such lease is within local permit limits and/or Association policy.

PLC-106
2026
WILDLIFE REFUGE GRAZING PERMIT TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, USFS policies regarding grazing on some national wildlife refuges provide that the heirs of a grazing permit holder must make an application for grazing privileges and would be treated as a new applicant in accordance with permittee selection procedures, and

WHEREAS, these same policies provide that refuge grazing permits shall be canceled when there is a change in a ranch ownership regardless of the ranch's past history of use of refuge grazing, and

WHEREAS, such policies, while providing no additional protection to wildlife, unnecessarily add to the instability of those livestock operations which involve grazing on national wildlife refuges,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that DOI be encouraged to change this policy to allow heirs or new ranch owners to continue grazing privileges under the permit and to be able to assume that permit and its prior terms.

PLC-107
2022
LAND SALES, DISPOSAL AND EXCHANGES

WHEREAS, PLC does not oppose valid land exchanges or disposal of federal lands if the interest of the permittee are not adversely affected, and

WHEREAS, PLC opposes any transactions that result in a net gain of federal land ownership, and

WHEREAS, federal grazing permittees and local and county governments could benefit from the purchase of certain federal lands, and

WHEREAS, there appears to be an attempt by various state and federal agencies to specifically acquire property through trade or purchase for the sole benefit of wildlife, recreation, or access, at the exclusion of multiple use values and to the detriment of natural resources for production,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports land exchanges, disposals, or acquisitions that result in no net loss of preference rights or permitted use; no net loss of private property; and no net gain in federal land.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports implementation of a new federal land disposal, acquisition, and consolidation process/program that:

1. Prioritizes for sale the lands that were deemed sub-marginal for intensive agriculture and administered by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as land utilization projects prior to 1953.
2. Results in better communication of specific program goals and objectives to livestock grazing permittees, local or state governments.
3. Results in increased opportunities for livestock grazing permittees to participate in the timely and orderly consolidation of land ownership in the western states, with minimal financial and operational impacts to both local and state governments.
4. Encourages an accelerated process of exchange or direct sale of tracts of public lands to adjacent landowners, recognizing the historic use of the land for purposes of valuation, to provide for management of land resources that results in increasing revenues to the economic bases of the local areas.
5. Ensure the public agencies pay a fair share of the costs associated with the federal land sale or exchange.
6. Results in no net loss of private land ownership or net gain of federal land ownership.

PLC-108
2026
IMPACT OF FEDERAL LAND PLANNING ON INTERMINGLED LANDS

WHEREAS, in the process of federal land planning, the federal land management agencies have at times ignored the intermingled nature of public and private lands in the West, and

WHEREAS, the public has not been informed of the facts of the land situation, and

WHEREAS, there is inadequate priority given to local input in the planning process,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC recommends that the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture change policy to reflect a new direction of educating the public, and that all planning proposals be coordinated with state, county, and private property interests.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC recommends that the input received from that coordination be given appropriate formal consideration in the planning process that recognizes the elevated stakeholder status of impacted local government and private property interests.

PLC-109
2026
PROPERTY TAKINGS

WHEREAS, government agencies are encroaching on private property rights through various actions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that any government agency involved in any such action be required to do a Takings Implication Assessment (TIA) as required by Presidential Executive Order 12630 prior to proceeding with such action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports legislation enacting Executive Order 12630 into law.

PLC-110
2026
STATE WATER RIGHTS

WHEREAS, waters are vitally important to each state in the development of natural resources, and

WHEREAS, the governmental entities are attempting to gain control of certain waters belonging to the states,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC strenuously opposes any federal legislation or any action by a federal agency that would diminish, alter use, or transfer any water on federal lands without just compensation to the holder of such water rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC protests any governmental entity takeover of state waters and insists that federal agencies acquire water rights in conformance with individual state statutes and water law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC does not recognize any federal claim to waters or restriction of movement of those waters which have historically and lawfully been developed, used, stored and/or transported on or across federal lands when such waters are protected by state water rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes any legislation establishing wilderness area which does not incorporate specific language requiring that any use of water or reservation of water for wilderness must be accomplished under the appropriate state water law.

PLC-111
2026
STATES' RIGHTS

WHEREAS, many federal regulations erode states' rights, and

WHEREAS, PLC supports states' rights,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC recommends that states review and consider those states rights issues and take an active role in working with their state governments to assert those rights.

PLC-112
2025
COMMUNICATING LET BURN AREAS

WHEREAS, certain areas have been designated as "let burn" areas, or "Big Box" areas by the USFS,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges USFS at all levels; federal, regional, and forest, to work with local agencies and affected stakeholders to develop a comprehensive policy regarding let-burn areas that incorporates local knowledge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these area boundaries be communicated to local suppression agencies.

PLC-113
2026
CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

WHEREAS, public land livestock producers face an increasing number of social threats to their base property that undermine their ability to maintain their operations on associated federal lands, and

WHEREAS, the voluntary sale or donation of conservation easements is consistent with private property rights, and

WHEREAS, conservation easements can be a valuable tool in many property owners' financial plans which can significantly affect income taxes, property taxes and income flow, thereby easing the task of transferring land to younger generations, and

WHEREAS, permanent easements unfairly limit the options of future generations both financially and to deal with resource conditions that may exist at that time,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports voluntary term easements as an important component of conservation easements that protect agricultural land.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports legislation to provide tax incentives to ranchers to create conservation easements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports legislation to secure benefits for term conservation easements commensurate with the value of such easements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC encourages interested landowners to become knowledgeable of their rights under the Uniform Conservation Easement Act before entering into a conservation easement.

PLC-114
2022
LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes the use of any monies from the Land and Water Conservation

Fund (LWCF) for the fee title acquisition of any private or state lands unless:

1. An equal or greater acreage of federal lands is concurrently disposed of within the same state, and
2. The proposed acquisition is considered in a transparent process that includes full opportunity for input by state and local governments and directly affected interests.

PLC-115
2022
DEFINITION AND TRANSFER OF PREFERENCE

WHEREAS, the concept of "grazing preference" or "preference" has played a key role in the history and stability of the grazing industry, rural economies, wildlife habitat, and ecosystem health, and

WHEREAS, the application of preference has changed since the enactment of the Taylor Grazing Act, and

WHEREAS, adjudicated preference has economic value for the holder of the preference, and

WHEREAS, preference for grazing livestock on public lands is protected by statute that has been reaffirmed by the judicial system of these United States through many past challenges,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC holds that "grazing preference", or "preference" means a superior or priority position against others for the purpose of receiving a grazing permit or lease, and that this priority is attached to base property owned or controlled by the permittee or lessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, preference should be limited to being applied to domestic livestock grazing, in accordance with PLC policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, preference is tied to a "base" property or water right.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, preference can be transferred by/with:

1. Change in ownership or control of "base" property,
2. Sale of permitted water,
3. An agreement with a new "base" property or "base" property owner and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any change or cancellation in preference must:

1. Be based on science-based monitoring data, including trend data,
2. Should be afforded all substantive protections and procedural safeguards available under the law.

PLC-116
2025
PERMANENCY OF GRAZING AGREEMENTS

WHEREAS, grazing of cattle, sheep, goats, horses, and burros as provided for under the Taylor Grazing Act on federal lands has been the primary purpose for generations to feed our nation, protect, preserve and improve our federal lands, support our rural communities, and protect our natural resources,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, grazing agreements for these species shall have first priority, privilege, and preference under the law above other public purposes and shall be permanently renewable.

PLC-117
2025
EPHEMERAL PERMITS

WHEREAS, BLM ephemeral permits continue to discourage grazing at appropriate levels consistent with the resource available,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC recommends all ephemeral permits be restored to year-round grazing as issued under the Taylor Grazing Act.

Agency Policy

PLC-200
2026
ANIMAL UNIT MONTHS

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests the various land management agencies to adopt a uniform definition of the term "animal unit month" (AUM) that is based on sound science, as used for establishing or defining preference rights and carrying capacities, and for billing purposes.

PLC-201
2026
BASE STOCKING RATES

WHEREAS, the BLM is using an average of three to five years of active AUM use to establish base stocking rates, and

WHEREAS, these regulations will unfairly discriminate against operators who have willingly reduced numbers in an effort to encourage more rapid improvement of range resources, or who have had to reduce numbers because of financial reasons they could not control, or who may have lost available forage due to fire or other acts of nature; or interim management actions, and

WHEREAS, monitoring of range trends over a period of years to determine range condition is the most reliable means by which to establish proper stocking rates,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes the use of average active use to establish base stocking rates.

PLC-202
2026
BILLING PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC GRAZING

WHEREAS, livestock lessees and permittees are billed for grazing use after-the-fact in some cases and before-the-fact in other cases, and

WHEREAS, this differential treatment is discriminatory and unfair to some permittees and lessees,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests that all billing, whether quarterly,

semiannually, or annually, be after-the-fact so as to put all permittees and lessees on an equal basis and to comply with the actual use requirements.

PLC-203
2022
BLM AFFECTED INTEREST AND INTERESTED PARTIES

WHEREAS, PLC opposes the interpretation of BLM policy that has allowed parties with no monetary consideration equal status with grazing permittees and lessees,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC pursues BLM policies that grant BLM permittees and lessees all procedural and substantive safeguards available under the law.

PLC-204
2026
ENERGY, MINERAL, AND TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, energy, mineral, and technological development may cause direct economic disruptions and damage in some ongoing livestock operations, and

WHEREAS, grazing plays an integral role in range health and can be a useful tool for rehabilitation of development sites,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges BLM and USFS to require all related companies to coordinate any activities on public lands with grazing permittees and lessees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that BLM should require lessees of federal minerals under private surface to negotiate surface use agreements with surface owners prior to any action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports energy projects that are agreed upon by affected permittees and result in no significant, permanent loss of AUMs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC seeks financial compensation and/or other mitigation, subject to approval by the permittee, for said permittee when AUMs are lost due to development projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC encourages federal land management agencies to set up project areas under a lease agreement so that project sites can then revert back to historic use.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in all areas of related development on federal lands, grazing mitigation agreements for purposes of site rehabilitation be agreed to by field operators and be included in the Record of Decision authorizing the development. Such measures should include:

1. An annual operator meeting with permittees.
2. Full compensation for livestock lost to energy, mineral and technological activities.
3. Establishment of a fund, or a firm commitment to funding, for development of range improvement projects that compensate for the development impacts.
4. Protection of necessary livestock movement corridors.
5. Appropriate management of pipeline and other trenching projects so as not to severely impact livestock's natural movement through pastures.
6. Construction and maintenance of quality fencing to assure that wildlife and livestock will not access contaminated water in pits.
7. Properly constructed and maintained cattle guards on all roads.

8. Enforcement of appropriate speed limits on all roads.
9. Provision of alternative forage or feed sources if field development reaches a level where continued grazing is not economically viable for the permittee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes the removal or reduction of livestock from rangelands as an option to mitigate the detrimental impacts of other uses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC will work to educate related companies and other public lands users of the positive role managed grazing can play in reducing the effects of other impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in the event that a buyout of grazing permits is offered by energy, mineral, and technological companies or other entities, PLC actions will remain consistent with its standing policy regarding no net loss of livestock grazing.

PLC-205
2023
FUNDS

BE IT RESOLVED, that 8100 fund monies should not be used for DOI administrative purposes.

PLC-206
2023
ECONOMIC EFFICIENCIES OF RANGELAND GRAZING

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests the federal agencies and the Office of Management and Budget to reassess their methods of measuring the economics of public range livestock grazing so as to properly account for all the direct and indirect public benefits of livestock grazing, including wildlife habitat, production of protein and fiber for domestic and international food security, continuous improvement in production efficiency that reduces inputs for the same high-quality outputs, other ecosystem services, and contributions to local economies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC expects strict adherence to the Data Quality Act (also referred to as the Information Quality Act) of 2001 in all economic information produced by the federal land management agencies.

PLC-208
2022
LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

BE IT RESOLVED, all livestock management contracts permissible under BLM regulations in 43 CFR, Part 4100, effective January 1, 1995, should be allowed on both USFS and BLM lands and billed at the regular rate.

PLC-209
2026
REFUGE GRAZING PLAN DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, livestock grazing is a useful tool used by FWS in the effective management of refuge lands and has proven in many cases to be beneficial to wildlife habitat,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges FWS to afford their permittees the same careful and considered consultation, cooperation and coordination in developing grazing plans and a similar fee structure for each refuge that is enjoyed by BLM and USFS grazing permittees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes any legislation or governmental policies that would class livestock grazing as an incompatible use on wildlife refuges.

PLC-210
2026
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NON-USE

WHEREAS, the FWS grazing regulations require that non-use of a permit, in whole or in part, shall be cause for cancellation of a permittee's privilege at the discretion of the refuge manager, and

WHEREAS, this requirement is causing management problems and some hardship for livestock operators,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC seeks changes in FWS non-use regulations that would coincide with the BLM non-use policies.

PLC-211
2026
NON-USE

WHEREAS, there are many allotments in non-use for various reasons, and

WHEREAS, the three-year limitation on total non-use is accepted by the livestock industry, and

WHEREAS, many of these allotments are activated by a one-year, non-renewable status,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that if a permittee is willing to let their allotment be used by another on a one-year, non-renewable status, the permittee can be credited for use of that year. Such use would reserve the active status of the permit for the permit holder.

PLC-212
2026
LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES' RANGE BUDGET

WHEREAS, the federal land management agencies have not scientifically monitored in a timely manner, and

WHEREAS, decisions by those agencies are required to have data to support them, and

WHEREAS, those decisions are currently often being made with only ocular estimates

and subjective determinations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC fully supports the addition of a line item in the USFS and BLM budgets that is only for scientific, vegetative trend monitoring.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that decisions to decrease livestock numbers must meet the statutory requirement of valid supporting data.

PLC-213
2026
GRAZING EIS

WHEREAS, the grazing Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) were not intended to be decision documents but represent only a collection of data, at one point in time,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests that monitoring of range trend including precipitation forage production, and utilization over time, rather than one-time forage inventories or average annual grazing use, be the basis for federal range management decisions including forage allocations and determination of stocking rates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes the use of computerized forage allocations and any range evaluation system using strict percentage of utilization figures.

PLC-214
2026
GRAZING LEVELS

WHEREAS, the BLM and USFS are increasingly basing proper grazing level determinations solely on percentage of utilization of riparian areas and key species utilization,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the land managing agencies use the accepted recognized grazing practices, as well as best scientific data available as well as long-term trend.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the aforementioned research used to set grazing level criteria for allotments should utilize adaptive management to include range trends prior to livestock use; wildlife utilization levels; and, where applicable, wild horse and burro utilization levels.

PLC-215
2022
QUALIFICATIONS OF AGENCY PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, federal land management agencies are shifting the emphasis of their land administration programs away from administering rangeland management practices and principles, and placing much more emphasis on the protection of ecological functions, wildlife habitat, and recreational management, the effect of which reduces opportunities for continued improvement in rangeland livestock management,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that PLC supports extending the educational requirements for federal land management agency personnel responsible for rangeland management and conservation programs beyond their formal academic training. Agency personnel should be required to update their

training in range management principles and practices through an accredited range science program every five (5) years. The hiring, upgrading and promotion of range technicians and conservationists must be based on formal range management education, and professional training and experience. Such education, training and experience, should include course work in the area of animal science, to complement those courses founded in ecology, plant identification, plant physiology and range management, soils and wildlife management.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all range management and conservation decisions be made only with adequate consideration by professional range management personnel.

PLC-216
2026
RIPARIAN AREAS

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC works toward the adoption by the agencies of the various state and federal governments of a uniform definition of a "riparian area," excluding from that definition any areas created or enhanced by water or spring development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes proposals of the federal land management agencies for mandatory fencing of riparian areas along streams or springs on the public lands except where:

1. Alternate sources of livestock water are identified, satisfactorily developed, and made available for livestock use, and
2. Privately owned state water rights in federal riparian areas are fully recognized and protected, including the right of access across federal lands to those waters and use thereof, and
3. The proposed sites are studied in full cooperation, coordination, and consultation with the livestock operator and, where appropriate, the local district grazing advisory board and/or grazing associations, and
4. A comprehensive cooperative agreement, including a termination date, adequate monitoring provisions, and an assignment of construction and maintenance responsibilities to the benefiting function, is voluntarily entered into between the agency and the livestock operator.

PLC-217
2026
VANDALISM ON PUBLIC LANDS

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges BLM and USFS to utilize education and local law enforcement efforts to discourage and curtail vandalism on the public lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that BLM and USFS be responsible for repairing damage to improvements and vegetation on public rangelands caused by vandalism and carelessness on the part of other users, and diligently work with local and state law enforcement personnel to identify and charge the parties responsible for such damage.

PLC-218
2026
WILDLIFE FORAGE ALLOCATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that BLM and USFS in performance of their missions and operations under the concept of balanced multiple use, consider the following as requisite to approval of additional wildlife demands on public rangelands:

1. Mandatory consultation and cooperation between public land managers and domestic livestock users as well as others concerned, and
2. Evidence, supported by monitoring studies, of sufficient habitat and excess forage over and above present use of the forage resource, and
3. A projection of geographic areas into which new animals will stray, and
4. After all preference of record is satisfied, a maximum number for additional animals by species, and controls to hold the growth within these limits, or to reduce these numbers if resource conditions so dictate, and
5. Adequate state programs to prevent the transfer of disease to domestic animals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that forage resources determined to be in excess of current demands be offered for use, if and where appropriate, to all consumptive users.

PLC-219
2022
RECREATIONAL OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, recreational off-highway vehicles (OHVs) may cause considerable damage to resources on public lands, and

WHEREAS, public land managing agencies have inadequately regulated and enforced rules concerning recreational OHV use on public lands, and

WHEREAS, ranchers rely on the ability to use OHVs for managing livestock,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC encourages the BLM and USFS to develop and enforce plans for recreational OHV use that balance all multiple uses of the land and give extra consideration to grazing operations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC urges the BLM and USFS to maintain the permittees' ability to make administrative use of OHVs for purposes related to grazing permits.

PLC-220
2026
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

WHEREAS, the DOI clearly has established a double standard for resource conditions and management on federal lands, one for livestock grazing on multiple use lands, and a different standard for wildlife grazing within any National Park and other lands within the National Park System, and

WHEREAS, that impact of overgrazing by wildlife or livestock on natural resources is not significantly different,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC encourages and supports an independent scientific

review and interpretation of the resource management policies and practices of the National Park Service within any National Park, and the effect these policies and practices have on the ecological resources within the National Park System and surrounding lands.

PLC-221
2022
PROPER USE OF AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (FLPMA)

WHEREAS, the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) authorizes federal land management agencies to designate Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) to protect and prevent irreparable damage to significant natural, cultural, or historical resources, and

WHEREAS, any designations proposed by the BLM in several western states appear to grossly exceed the ACEC authority granted by FLPMA, and clearly exceed the Congressional intent of the enacting legislation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests that federal land management agencies apply the ACEC provisions of FLPMA in strict compliance with the intent of the Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC requests that federal land management agencies make every effort to address environmental or other resource management issues through the existing land use planning processes before enacting the ACEC provisions of FLPMA.

PLC-222
2022
DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND U.S. FOREST SERVICE WATER DEVELOPMENT POLICY

WHEREAS, the Range Reform 94 regulations, as approved by the Secretary of Interior, require the implementation of strict standards and guidelines for rangeland health on all federal lands, and achieving such standards and guidelines will require the use of many different livestock management strategies and practices, including the opportunity to develop ground and surface water sources for livestock and wildlife use, and

WHEREAS, DOI and USFS have opposed the development of livestock water sources on public lands administered by the BLM and such livestock water developments are critical management prescriptions to be used in achieving the prescribed standards and guidelines for numerous livestock grazing permits on BLM and state lands,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges DOI and USFS to support the state water right development and filing procedures being properly applied to all livestock water developments on federal, state, or private lands, and withdraw any opposition to the construction and maintenance of livestock water developments on any federal, state, or private lands, if such development is included under the terms and conditions of any federal or state livestock grazing permit or lease, or if such development is critical to the proper utilization of the forage resources associated with such grazing permits or leases.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC urges the agencies to abide by state water law.

PLC-223
2026
MANDATORY COMPLIANCE REPORTING BY PERMITTEES

WHEREAS, voluntary data collection may be beneficial to permittees and federal agencies alike, and

WHEREAS, nonconsensual permit compliance reporting required by federal agencies could be detrimental to the permittees ability to graze their allotments,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC encourages voluntary participation in monitoring as agreed upon by permittees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes mandatory compliance reporting by the permittee as a condition of a grazing permit.

PLC-224
2026
MONITORING PROMOTION

WHEREAS, PLC fully supports the report prepared by the PLC/NCBA Monitoring Committee, that provides the basis for identification of research needs and the need for additional efforts to elevate the subject of joint, cooperative field level monitoring to a high priority within our industry and BLM and USFS, and

WHEREAS, a national strategy from BLM and USFS that clearly conveys the intent of these Agencies to elevate adequate quantity and quality data using state of the art range science procedures to a high priority within these agencies, and provide adequate funding and range technicians to accomplish this objective, is in the best interest of our members and the agencies,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC recommend to all ranchers who hold federal grazing permits or leases that it is in their best interest to participate in joint, cooperative, field level monitoring with their respective agency(s).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC work directly with the leadership of the BLM and USFS to expeditiously develop a national monitoring strategy within each agency that will facilitate and accomplish the goals and objectives set forth in the Monitoring Committee Report.

PLC-225
2026
NOTIFICATION OF PERMITTEES FOR VACANT ALLOTMENTS

WHEREAS, public land grazing allotments periodically become vacant, and

WHEREAS, improper disposition of vacant allotments may harm the stability of the grazing industry, and

WHEREAS, vacant allotments are not being reissued in a timely manner, nor is the process of restocking being done consistently,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the federal land management agencies shall notify the local or state livestock organizations when an allotment becomes vacant and on annual basis these groups the total number and location of vacant allotments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, federal land management agencies put vacant allotments up for advertisements and reissuance to qualified applicants.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that vacant allotments for which there is a qualified applicant be kept on or added to the Rescissions Act schedule as a priority in order to be compliant with NEPA and allow grazing.

PLC-226
2026
CROSS-BOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

WHEREAS, resource issues cross political and administrative boundaries, and

WHEREAS, federal agencies rarely produce environmental documentation that tracks the geographic scope of cross-boundary resource issues, and

WHEREAS, the failure to produce documentation at the proper geographic scale results in added costs and inefficiencies for the federal government as well as leading to different management regimes for the same resource issues,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges federal land managing agencies to produce environmental documentation at the proper geographic scale and, where possible, to supplement documents necessary to address the adjacent resource areas.

PLC-227
2022
POST-FIRE GRAZING ON FEDERALLY MANAGED LAND

WHEREAS, PLC desires to focus on site specific landscape health goals, and

WHEREAS, range management science recognizes livestock grazing as a tool to reach these site specific landscape goals, and

WHEREAS, standard agency procedure requires a two-year rest period after a fire occurs, despite the fact that this practice leads to increased invasive regrowth, such as cheatgrass and medusahead, thereby increasing fuel loads for future fires,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that agency manuals addressing post-fire grazing policy should:

1. Require that decisions be based upon site specific range vegetation goals, and
2. Design and utilize prescriptive grazing to:
3. Advance progress toward these vegetative goals, and
4. Be applied as locally determined to be appropriate.

PLC-228
2023
PERMIT RENEWALS

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service (USFS) are not able to meet the NEPA compliance deadline, as established by statute, for a significant number of

grazing permit renewals, and

WHEREAS, such missed NEPA deadlines on grazing permit renewals could cause closures of allotments to livestock grazing and/or litigation, and

WHEREAS, ranchers and local Western communities affected by this situation will suffer severe adverse economic impacts should term grazing permits/leases be subject to any delays in the renewal of the rancher's ability to use their Adjudicated Preference, and

WHEREAS, both the Taylor Grazing Act and FLPMA confirm the right of Preference for the renewal of livestock grazing permits/leases by current owners of these grazing permits/leases if they remain qualified,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports a policy that the agency administrative action of renewing a grazing permit is a non-discretionary action and not a decision subject to NEPA analysis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that until such time that NEPA ceases to apply to grazing permit renewals, BLM and USFS allocate appropriate levels of funding to complete the grazing allotment NEPA documents and grazing permit renewals, internally communicate the priority of completing these actions for the affected allotments, and reassign specialists to complete the input required for the permits to ensure that grazing is allowed to continue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC will work to ensure that the agencies have the capability to conduct a science-based trend monitoring program in consultation with the grazing permittees to provide data to support continued livestock grazing on federal lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC will work with Congress to ensure that BLM grazing permits/leases of ranchers who hold the Preference for the renewal of these permits/leases do not administratively expire because the agency is not able to fully process these permits/leases or comply with internal policies that require more than is mandated by federal statutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC protects the priority position and historical use of USFS and BLM grazing permits and leases to ensure rights and privileges are not infringed by any other subsequent multiple use.

PLC-229
2026
ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL OFFICER ETHICS

WHEREAS, the Federal ethics and conflict of interest code applies to employees of the USDA and DOI,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC, on behalf of livestock growers victimized by inappropriate and unethical abuse of federal authority, demand that federal officers recuse themselves from decision making in all circumstances where their personal views or their private advocacy group takes a position on the use they are empowered to regulate.

PLC-230
2026
EMERGENCY CRP USE

WHEREAS, wildfires, floods, droughts, and other natural disasters displace cattle from private and public lands every year, and

WHEREAS, the United States government has hundreds of thousands of acres of land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), and

WHEREAS, in the event of a natural disaster a rancher has already suffered a sizable loss many times in both forage and livestock,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports USDA authorizing Emergency Use of CRP lands.

PLC-231
2023
NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, public lands ranchers have unique conditions as grazing permit holders and may move livestock to multiple areas a year, and

WHEREAS, in the remote areas of the West, there is a lack of facilities, and extensive regulation involved with permitting for the development of facilities, and

WHEREAS, a catastrophic animal disease, such as the Foot and Mouth Disease that struck Great Britain, can imperil the U.S. sheep and cattle industry,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC will support any animal identification system if the following conditions are met:

1. It provides sufficient flexibility to accommodate varied production systems in the United States, including group lot movement and identification of livestock.
2. It is based in the private sector to the greatest extent practicable while accommodating individual state programs.
3. Its implementation minimizes the economic burden to the sheep and cattle industries and ensures the confidentiality of producer records.
4. It does not replace or impede existing state brand inspection activities.

PLC-232
2023
LAND MANAGEMENT AND NEPA

WHEREAS, the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management are required to conduct NEPA analysis when making land management decisions, and

WHEREAS, a decision to refrain from active management of the land and resources has major impacts, namely catastrophic fires that destroy the landscape and lead to conversion of forests and rangeland to brushland, that should be similarly evaluated,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports requiring federal agencies to conduct NEPA analysis on both action and inaction where resource management is concerned, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports the inclusion of a cost analysis when federal agencies make a decision not to manage the resource with tools that would generate revenue or other benefits, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports direction to federal agencies to use existing NEPA tools, including categorical exclusions, to facilitate timely and reasonable intervention for resource health.

PLC-233
2026
RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ON PUBLIC LANDS

WHEREAS, the development of "green" energy such as wind and solar will be done as a means for achieving the renewable energy goals set forth by Congress, and

WHEREAS, PLC believes the development of these types of energy sources needs to be done in a way that has the least impact on the environment and current land uses, and

WHEREAS, the development of "green"/renewable energy will be unevenly distributed around the United States with the bulk of the large national projects located in the West, increasing the potential for conflicts with existing multiple uses of public lands, and

WHEREAS, the dedication of public land to a single use by eliminating multiple use management not only violates the law but will disrupt existing wildlife, ecological and recreational uses and adversely impact the stable business climate that our producers need to continue to be productive and profitable,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports renewable energy projects that result in no significant loss of AUMs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC requests that the input and involvement of permittees and local government be included in identification of future project sites and development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC seeks financial and/or other mitigation for AUM loss resulting from projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports the use of vacant allotments for mitigation purposes when they are adjacent to the permittee's operation and/or the permittee approves mitigation on an individual basis.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC encourages federal land management agencies to set up project areas under a lease agreement so that project sites can then revert back to historic use.

PLC-234
2023
POISONING FRESH WATER AQUATIC SPECIES

WHEREAS, no state or federal action should be taken without availability of administrative appeal,

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes the use of Rotenone on federal lands for the killing of aquatic species in the West in the absence of adequate analysis of health impacts under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and other environmental laws. In the case of state agency action, no poisoning of waters with Rotenone shall be undertaken without approval of affected downstream water users.

PLC-235
2023
CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND FIRE MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, vegetation fuel loads, drought, poorly planned backfires and inaccessible areas have led to catastrophic wildfires, creating an emergency situation, and

WHEREAS, catastrophic wildfire poses a constant threat to human life, property, and natural resources on federal lands and private lands, and

WHEREAS, the risk of catastrophic wildfires is compounded by federal lands management policy, including the requirements imposed by NEPA and ESA restrictions, and

WHEREAS, proper livestock grazing management practices will minimize the initial risk of fire and promote forage regrowth in areas that have burned,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports efforts to reevaluate and improve land management to prevent catastrophic wildfires in years to come, including legislative and regulatory changes that require managers of all federal lands to use multiple-use activities such as grazing, thinning and timber harvesting so as to prevent the build-up of fuel loads that can lead to catastrophic fire.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports "categorical exclusions" for NEPA requirements and waivers for ESA management in cases of land management for catastrophic wildfire prevention.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports actions by the appropriate state and federal agencies charged with managing public lands to make effective use of livestock in reducing fuel load from forage and brush growth to minimize fire danger.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC coordinates efforts with the federal land management agencies to recognize rural, volunteer, and other local fire departments as the first line of defense for fire suppression.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, these agencies provide training and equipment needs to local fire departments to ensure fires are aggressively fought during initial attack and transition periods.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that land maps be prepared to show areas that will allow immediate suppression efforts, including use of heavy equipment, to be initiated.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports changes to existing law in order to protect agricultural operation, undertaking normal fire management, from unwarranted and unintended prosecution under arson or related criminal statutes.

PLC-236
2022
BLM WILDERNESS AND LANDS WITH WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS

WHEREAS, PLC represents ranching and farming families across the United States, and

WHEREAS, Secretarial Order 3310, known as the Wild Lands Order, directed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to inventory, manage, and designate lands with perceived "Wilderness Characteristics" through departmental authority, creating de facto wilderness areas adverse to any other use, and

WHEREAS, Congress defunded implementation of Secretarial Order 3310 in 2011, and Secretarial Order 3393 rescinded the order in 2021, and

WHEREAS, Congress has the sole authority to designate Wilderness areas according to the Wilderness Act of 1964, and

WHEREAS, administratively created wilderness restrict both renewable and nonrenewable natural resource uses on public lands in the West, further impeding the historic, cultural, and occupational uses of farming and ranching in this country, and

WHEREAS, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) Sec. 1712- c (9) states, "Land use plans of the Secretary under this section shall be consistent with State and local plans to the maximum extent he finds consistent with Federal law and the purposes of this Act,"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes any administrative action that would revive the contents of Secretarial Order 3310.

PLC-237
2023
ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

WHEREAS, for many years, the Allotment Management Plan (AMP) has been used by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and BLM grazing permittees to develop and describe how livestock grazing would be managed, rangeland improvements constructed and maintained, and monitoring conducted and evaluated, and

WHEREAS, Section 402 (d) of FLPMA and Section 8 of the Public Rangelands Improvement Act (PRIA) state that, should the Secretary of Interior elect to develop an AMP, they shall do so in "careful and considered consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the lessees, permittees, and landowners involved...", and

WHEREAS, the 1976 National Forest Management Act (NFMA) codified these processes for NF lands, and the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and the 1978 Public Rangeland Improvement Act (PRIA) for BLM lands.

WHEREAS, AMPs are a strategic operational tool for ranchers and local agency officials to effectively manage rangelands using the concepts of adaptive management, which is sustainable to both the land and permittee, and

WHEREAS, AMPs are comprehensive management tools, evidenced as they may be considered as a "regulatory mechanism" in listing decisions under Section 4 of the Endangered Species Act, and

WHEREAS, the BLM circumvents the traditional working relationship between the BLM and lessees/permittees on issues of importance to management and monitoring in the allotment by the use of the Grazing Decision process, which it deems a "functional equivalent" of an AMP, and

WHEREAS, the BLM Grazing Decision process does not require any careful and considered consultation, cooperation, and coordination with the lessees, permittees, or landowners to develop the terms and conditions of livestock grazing in an allotment,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC strongly oppose the trend within the BLM to replace the AMP process with the Grazing Decision process, thereby requiring no or little consultation on issues of significant importance to the lessee/permittee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC urgently request renewed support and direction for AMPs by federal agencies, including intra-agency direction to develop and update AMPs where there currently are none.

PLC-238
2023
GRAZING PREFERENCE RIGHTS

WHEREAS, each BLM permittee/lessee owns or controls a preference level of livestock AUMs that was legally adjudicated based on non-federal acres (base property), and

WHEREAS, the preference level of adjudicated AUMs serves as the basis for the "permit value" of the BLM portion of family ranches dependent on their BLM allotments/leases for economic viability and long-term sustainability,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that in cases where the BLM determines that the active use level for livestock grazing on an allotment or grazing lease should be less than the adjudicated preference level, that after a process of consultation, cooperation, and coordination between the BLM and the grazing preference holder, the federal AUMs proposed for reduction shall not be cancelled and must be held in the administrative category of "suspended use" until such time as they can be reinstated as active-use AUMs.

PLC-240
2022
PUNITIVE PROSECUTION BY LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES

WHEREAS, ranchers operating on federal lands throughout the West labor under an everchanging network of laws, policies, and guidelines from the land management agencies, and

WHEREAS, in the course of federal land management those policies are often misinterpreted by agency staff, either innocently or punitively, with situations like overly harsh sentences being the tragic result, and

WHEREAS, all too often the same federal land management agencies fail to take responsibility when they are at fault for similar situations, as was the case with the Pautre Fire in South Dakota, which started as a prescribed burn and ended up destroying over $50 million of ranchers' private property,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC will work with Congress and the administration to exempt normal farming and ranching practices from prosecution under inappropriate statutes designed for terrorists and other criminals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC will continue to seek the reinstatement of rightfully owned federal grazing permits.

PLC-241
2023
NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

WHEREAS, ranchers across the country deal with NEPA and its ramifications on a regular basis, and

WHEREAS, Western ranchers operating with federal grazing permits are particularly impacted due to the high volume of unnecessary NEPA reviews undertaken by the various federal agencies during regular, ongoing land management, and

WHEREAS, this overuse of NEPA has created endless opportunities for litigious groups to

disrupt rightful multiple use operations, intimidate family ranchers, and inappropriately influence policy making, and

WHEREAS, these actions generally result in reducing or prohibiting the customary uses of the lands, losing the culture and lifestyles created by the multigenerational occupational uses of the local residents, and

WHEREAS, overuse, or use as a decisional document, was not intended when the law was enacted,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC will pursue the following changes to the implementation of NEPA:

1. Define and enhance the use of Categorical Exclusions where appropriate.
2. Enhance and define the role of affected parties:
3. Parties with long-term contractual agreements or preference grazing rights should be recognized as the stakeholders that they are. This does not seek to diminish the role of the general public but protect that of individuals or entities that are invested in the process and consequently possess irreplaceable substantive first-hand knowledge.
4. Ensure that activist groups engaged in habitual manipulation of the NEPA process through threat or filing of litigation are not rewarded with the same status as affected stakeholders.
5. Ensure that adjacent landowners, permittees and/or other affected parties are properly notified and included early in the process.
6. Enhance the role of state and local governments in the NEPA process.
7. Ensure that state and local governments are brought into the process at the initial stage of the determination to complete NEPA analysis to assist in determining the issues to be addressed.
8. Ensure adequate time for comment preparation and submission from cooperating agencies and relevant external entities.
9. Require substantive answers to substantive comments made during the administrative review period.
10. Improve formulation of alternatives and establishment of baseline, continuing use, definition of "no action" as an alternative, etc.
11. Ensure that socioeconomic analysis is given equal weight to environmental analysis
12. Withdraw the Babbitt directive on influence of socio-economic analysis.
13. Recognize the limited expertise and resources of the agency to complete socio-economic analysis and seek credible information available from state and local governments and local affected interests.

PLC-242
2025
WILDFIRE REHABILITATION FUNDING

WHEREAS, wildfires happen annually across federal lands throughout the West, and

WHEREAS, there are significant impacts to the resource and improvements on those lands when wildfire happens, and

WHEREAS, there are little to no resources available to replace the improvements on those federal lands, specifically fences, pipelines, etc. integral to the grazing permittees' use,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that PLC will pursue an appropriation to fund an account within DOI and USDA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this fund will be used to repair and replace improvements at the time of impact due to wildfires on federal lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these financial resources will be made available in a timely and cooperative fashion between the agencies and permittees in order to prioritize and be efficient with reconstruction need.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that repair or replacement of infrastructure shall be made under a categorical exclusion or other applicable NEPA document.

PLC-243
2023
POST-FIRE MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, federal lands continue to languish without any active management in the months and years after fire, and

WHEREAS, delayed management results in invasive species encroachment, extensive residual fuel loads, and increased risk of future fire, loss of local economic activity, and compromised ecosystem services, and

WHEREAS, NEPA and other federal laws are often cited as the barriers to post-fire management, resulting in costly analyses and surveys that make post-fire remediation harder, more expensive, and less successful,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges state and federal agencies to include authorizations for more timely post-fire management into larger NEPA analyses, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports Congressional direction that agencies must use tools to expedite post-fire surveys and use Categorical Exclusions to put post-fire management on the ground faster, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC promotes the inclusion of the following postfire grazing policy in agency manuals:

1. Require that decisions be based upon site-specific range vegetation goals, which may include the use of more intensive management (increased AUMs) as determined necessary for targeted management, and
2. Design and utilize prescriptive grazing to:
3. Advance progress toward these vegetative goals, and
4. Be applied as locally determined to be appropriate, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports full funding of user-friendly emergency relief and rehabilitation programs.

PLC-244
2023
MONITORING OF PUBLIC LANDS IN NON-USE

WHEREAS, the implementation of various federal laws and regulations often result in the reduction of grazing on public lands, and in some instances the complete removal of livestock, and

WHEREAS, livestock grazing provides many ecological benefits to the land and when removed or restricted, fine fuels build up, soil health is compromised, and plant communities become stagnant,

and

WHEREAS, rangeland monitoring is encouraged and required on lands where livestock grazing is present but is not conducted on lands where grazing has been removed, and

WHEREAS, monitoring of public lands upon which grazing has been removed would provide useful and instructive data which could better inform land management decisions and policy actions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that PLC seeks for the establishment of policy that would require ongoing rangeland monitoring of land when grazing is removed to determine long-term impact.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that additional policy should be established to require rangeland monitoring on land which has already been retired from grazing and has sat idle for a period of time.

PLC-245
2025
RESTRICTED USE PESTICIDES

WHEREAS, EPA is responsible for the creation of regulatory labels applied to Restricted Use Pesticides (RUP), and

WHEREAS, USFS disregards the EPA label when determining allowable use of RUP for weed and pest management,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests that all federal and state land management agencies, including USFS and BLM, implement a more effective weed and pest program that is consistent and compelled to comply with the EPA label guidance for RUPs without limitation.

PLC-246
2026
AGENCY PROCESS FOR GRAZING PERMITS RELATED TO RESERVED TRIBAL GRAZING RIGHTS

WHEREAS, PLC recognizes reserved treaty rights as they pertains to tribal members' ability to graze on covered areas, and

WHEREAS, reserved treaty rights can be exercised on active, vacant, and closed allotments, and

WHEREAS, PLC supports grazing and policies that reduce potential conflict between non-tribal grazing permittees and tribal members who are eligible to exercise reserved grazing rights, and

WHEREAS, federal land grazing permits, leases, and agreements are currently managed by statute and the rules of the USFS and BLM, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges BLM and USFS to protect an underlying permittee's preference position or priority, and ability to exercise underlying permit.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC urges BLM and USFS to comply with regulatory notice requirements when a grazing permit may be affected by an individual or tribe's utilization of a reserved treaty right.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC holds that where a multi-year disruption or displacement of the underlying permittee occurs as the result of tribal utilization, the agency should find and offer alternative forage on a temporary or permanent basis, or alternative compensation, that is equivalent to the permitted use, with the agreement of the original permittee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC urges BLM and USFS to develop policy that in the event an individual no longer wishes to exercise their reserved treaty right to graze in a covered area, the prior

permittee shall have first right of refusal to return to the allotment(s) under the previously permitted conditions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC urges BLM and USFS to develop policy to require tribal members who graze in these covered areas follow all current rules and regulations of the managing agency, including those related to range improvement maintenance and land health.

Plant and Animal Control

PLC-300
2026
ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL

WHEREAS, PLC believes that, while wildlife is a valuable public resource, it must also be responsibly managed to reduce damage to agriculture and private property,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports animal damage control efforts on public lands, employing appropriate natural, toxic and mechanical means.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC will not condone irresponsible or illegal efforts to control predation and damage to private property.

PLC-301
2022
WILDLIFE SERVICES

WHEREAS, PLC supports a strong WS program administered by the USDA Animal-Plant Health Inspection Service, and

WHEREAS, the current WS program would be substantially strengthened if a well- defined statement of philosophical direction were adopted,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports full funding for WS to control all predators detrimental to our industry.

PLC-302
2025
PRAIRIE DOGS

WHEREAS, uncontrolled populations of prairie dogs on federal lands are causing economic devastation to permitted livestock grazing, wildlife, and adjoining private lands,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports control and reductions of the prairie dog population on federal rangelands to a maximum limit of occupied prairie dog habitat to no more than 1.5% of federal land within any given grazing allotment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all prairie dog management plans or EIS include a contingency plan which addresses the hazards to human health and life in the event of an outbreak of communicable disease, such as bubonic plague or rabies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes any unwarranted, unscientific attempts to list the

prairie dog as a threatened or endangered species, or as a component of critical habitat for another threatened or endangered species.

PLC-303
2026
NOXIOUS WEEDS AND PESTS

WHEREAS, noxious weeds and pests present an ever-increasing problem on private and public lands, and

WHEREAS, weeds and pests on federal lands are spreading and contaminating private lands,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests that all federal and state land management agencies instigate a more effective weed and pest control program that complies with state and county laws and regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC recommends that weed and pest control funds be given a high priority in the budget process.

PLC-304
2026
FERAL HORSES AND BURROS

WHEREAS, excessive numbers of feral horses and burros continue to cause increasing deterioration of range conditions in many areas of the West, and

WHEREAS, BLM has determined the Appropriate Management Level (AML) to be 27,000 horses, and

WHEREAS, PLC is concerned about adequate funding of the Wild Horse and Burro Program in order to maintain a thriving ecological balance as required by law,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports legislation that would provide for additional tools and flexibility to aid in the removal of excess numbers when exceeding AML and when potential resource damage is imminent.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate managing agencies should reimburse livestock operators for damages to improvements caused by feral horses and burros.

PLC-305
2026
TRANSPLANTING OF WILDLIFE AND FERAL ANIMALS

WHEREAS, the transfer and transplant of all animals with no requirement for testing for contagious or communicable diseases presents a potential threat to the spread of disease to all other animals, domestic or wild,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC recommends that all animals being transferred be required to meet the same criteria applied to the movement of domestic animals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes the introduction of Rocky Mountain or Desert

Bighorn sheep into areas where domestic sheep and goat grazing occurs or vacant federal or state trust lands sheep allotments exist until scientific testing has proven beyond reasonable doubt that there is no pathogen transferred between the two species.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes any such releases or agreement being made without the consensus of the affected private interests within the area of impact.

PLC-306
2022
PERMITTEE VOLUNTARY PURCHASE OF WILD HORSES

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need for BLM and USFS to reach Appropriate Management Level (AML) for wild horse and burro populations on public lands, and

WHEREAS, the number of horses in long-term holding facilities is greater than the federal government's financial capability to care for them,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC will work to encourage BLM and USFS to allow federal grazing permittees to purchase wild horses without title restrictions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports the full variety of tools to remove wild horses and burros from the range and establish cost-effective long-term management options, including but not limited to adoption (and associated incentives), sale without restriction, and use by government agencies.

PLC-307
2026
HORSE HARVESTING AND PROCESSING

WHEREAS, the method of euthanasia employed by processing facilities that harvest horses is a humane end of life, and

WHEREAS, there is a continued need for the humane harvest of horses to prevent the inhumane treatment of horses that would suffer from neglect and abandonment, and

WHEREAS, there exists an extremely insufficient infrastructure and no funding mechanism to support the humane existence of unwanted horses, and

WHEREAS, unwanted horses are processed into products that are consumed by humans in overseas markets, and

WHEREAS, the value of unwanted horses as a food animal dictates they not be abused, lest this value be diminished, and

WHEREAS, the cattle industry depends upon an economically healthy horse industry and systems to offer a humane end of life for unwanted horses,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes any horse harvesting and/or processing prevention act and any such legislation that would prohibit the humane harvest of horses for any commercial purposes.

Endangered Species

PLC-400
2022
ENDANGERED SPECIES

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the ESA is currently administered with little regard to economic cost/benefit analysis, additional restriction on private property rights, restraint of recognized management practices, increased risk of catastrophic wildfire and other landscape degradation, and of predator damage, and

WHEREAS, there are no safeguards to assure that information regarding the presence of a species is not improperly acquired by willful trespass, and

WHEREAS, there are no safeguards to exclude or weigh information submitted by persons or organizations that have a vested or potential financial interest in promoting, encouraging or supporting the determination of listing threatened or endangered species, and

WHEREAS, the ESA is being used as a method of land control, and

WHEREAS, the mechanism for delisting a recovered species is cumbersome,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC will seek amendments to the ESA regulations and statute and the regulations applicable to special status species for the purpose of minimizing unnecessary burdens on permittees while protecting wildlife.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC encourages Congress to reform the ESA to facilitate the expeditious delisting of species whenever the best available science indicates that recovery goals have been met.

PLC-401
2022
BLACK FOOTED FERRET RECOVERY

WHEREAS, established prairie dog towns have been identified as targets for the introduction of the black footed ferret,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that USFS, BLM, and other federal agencies accept their responsibility to control prairie dogs in the interest or preservation of the quality of the soil and range resource and general wildlife habitat.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC only supports black footed ferret introduction as a biological control method provided that these populations be classed as "experimental nonessential," inside or outside designated reintroduction areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, when the black footed ferret is reintroduced, the "experimental-non-essential" classification must not preclude any prairie dog control which may be necessary, must not negatively impact existing private property and business interest rights, and must not preclude normal management practices and multiple use management.

PLC-402
2022
MANAGEMENT OF FEDERALLY PROTECTED PREDATORS

WHEREAS, predators such as grizzly bears and wolves have been classified as "endangered species," and

WHEREAS, good range management practices cannot be conducted in livestock grazing areas where grizzly bears, wolves and other predators are prevalent, and

WHEREAS, federal agencies have acknowledged the fact that the number of sheep and cattle allotments, stocking rates and distribution of livestock did nothing to preclude recovery of the grizzly bear or wolf,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes any land or resource plan amendments that require or encourage any removals of livestock grazing or reduction in animal months in response to grizzly bear or wolf conservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC requests that government agencies and/or livestock producers be granted authority to kill or otherwise discourage predation by predators such as grizzly bears and wolves whenever they are harassing, chasing, injuring, or killing on domestic livestock grazing areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC strongly opposes the expansion of existing habitat designations that give priority to predator recovery over economic values.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports, in accordance with the best available science, the de-listing of the grizzly bear and all wolves from the ESA such that control of these species may be turned over to the appropriate state authority.

PLC-403
2026
FEDERAL AGENCY ADHERENCE TO SCIENCE

WHEREAS, well-managed livestock grazing has been shown by the best scientific and commercial information available to be compatible with or helpful to achieving conservation objectives, and

WHEREAS, livestock grazing is often falsely accused of detracting from conservation objectives,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with regard to decisions made under the ESA, NEPA, NFMA, and other statutes affecting natural resource use, PLC supports federal agencies' adherence to the Federal Data Quality Act and the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court (Daubert and its progeny) regarding the qualification of scientific experts and the validity of scientific evidence used.

PLC-404
2022
NEED FOR WARM WATER FISH RESEARCH

WHEREAS, most fish research relied upon as a basis for decision making by FWS and others has been based on habitat requirements of cold water fish, and

WHEREAS, the use of that data to inform native warm water fish management decisions in the

Southwest is not scientifically supportable due to significantly different species habitat and survival requirements, and

WHEREAS, scientists at the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Flagstaff, Arizona have been doing research on listed native southwestern warm water fish and have compiled over a decade of data on Arizona and New Mexico streams, and

WHEREAS, warm water fish research needs to be continued and targeted on grazing/fish population interactions in order to inform federal management of warm water streams and adjacent USFS and BLM grazing allotments,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC aggressively supports continued warm water fish research by the same research scientists to develop a scientific basis for federal land management actions to promote the recovery of native warm water fish populations.

PLC-405
2022
BIGHORN/DOMESTIC SHEEP

WHEREAS, for years domestic sheep have pastured on the public domain often in proximity to Bighorn Sheep (BHS) without problems, and

WHEREAS, conservation groups plan to transplant or already have transported BHS to most western states mountain ranges, and

WHEREAS, some FWS officials as well as environmental groups are claiming that the presence of sheep adjoining BHS range is endangering BHS health, and

WHEREAS, the evidence upon which these health claims is inconclusive in regard to the parameters constituting pathogen transmission and subsequent disease,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that PLC pursue efforts to cause FWS, state departments of fish and game, Washington State University, USDA APHIS, and USDA ARS to cooperate with the state departments of food and agriculture, state universities and producers in devising reasonable scientific studies by independent scientists to determine through well designed epidemiological studies the influence of domestic sheep on the health of BHS, as well as rigorously explore the multi-causal nature of respiratory disease and death in BHS such as range conditions, transplant policy, nutrition, mineral deficiency, predations, adverse winter, observed density dependent decrease in reproduction and increase in mortality.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that PLC continue to pursue actions that will protect producers' grazing privileges as well as herd health for both species until conclusive science addresses the aforementioned issue of disease and pathogen transmission under range conditions.

Current and Proposed Law/Policy

PLC-500
2026
DAVIS-BACON ACT

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests that Congress exempt federal range improvement contracts from the Davis-Bacon Act concerning wage rates.

PLC-501
2026
TAYLOR GRAZING ACT, ORGANIC ACT, AND BANKHEAD-JONES ACT

WHEREAS, the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, the U.S. Forest Service Organic Act of 1897, and the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937 (herein known as the "Acts") and concurrent amendments have provided economic stability to the western livestock industry and to western rural communities, and

WHEREAS, the Acts have provided sound range management practices to western rangelands, incentives for resource enhancement and economic stability to counties through range improvement ownership,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports the TGA, the U.S. Forest Service Organic Act of 1897, and the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937 and concurrent amendments as written.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any regulations affecting grazing on federal lands comply with the TGA, the U.S. Forest Service Organic Act of 1897 and the Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937 and amendments as written.

PLC-502
2022
GRAZING FEES

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports the grazing fee formula issued in the 1986 Executive Order.

PLC-503
2026
GRAZING ADVISORY BOARDS

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC seeks legislation authorizing local Grazing Advisory Boards within the jurisdiction of BLM and USFS.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the functions of said boards be broadened to the offering of advice and the making of recommendations on all matters pertaining to grazing.

PLC-504
2026
RANGE IMPROVEMENT FUNDS

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports the addition of the following proviso to the end of the second sentence of Section 401(B)(1) of FLPMA, amended (43 USC 1701): "provided, however, that such discretion will not result in less funds than what otherwise would have been used for such purposes in any district, region or national forest over a five-year accounting period."

PLC-505
2022
NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports legislative efforts to remove the National Grasslands from the National Forest System.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports efforts to bring parity to grasslands permittees and forest permittees in permit administration and other agency processes.

PLC-506
2026
MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, large areas of the Federal Domain have been withdrawn from multiple use,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that further withdrawals of federal lands be subject to federal, social and economic analyses regarding losses to the public of the natural resources of grazing, timber, harvest, mineral development and petroleum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports the multiple-use management concept on federal lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC generally opposes congressional or administrative designations, including the designation of study areas, which result in de facto single-use management or single use allotments in derogation of the long-standing principle of multiple use.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that DOI continue to review existing withdrawals as mandated by FLPMA and proceed to revoke those which are no longer justified.

PLC-507
2026
WILDERNESS AND WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC believes that any wilderness legislation passed by Congress or wilderness study areas proposed by a Department should:

1. Designate as wilderness only those areas that meet the criteria specified in the Wilderness Act of 1964, and
2. Not designate as wilderness those areas which have been gerrymandered to include non-wilderness corridors which contain roads, and/or adjacent to private land, and
3. Allow livestock permittees to use motorized, mechanized equipment in wilderness areas to promptly and economically care for livestock, range or water improvements, fences, etc., and to provide for predator control, and
4. Recognize state water rights and provide that the wilderness areas are not subject to the doctrine of federal reserved water rights, and
5. Allow for increased grazing in wilderness or wilderness study areas when range conditions permit, and
6. Identify currently inactive or vacant allotments where grazing had previously been "established", within the meaning and intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964; grazing on such

allotments within wilderness areas shall resume when range or economic conditions allow, and

7. Amend the Wilderness Act of 1964 to require that an economic impact statement be prepared for any area identified, or under study, prior to enactment of legislation establishing such wilderness areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports inclusion of the following language in any and all legislation designating wilderness areas:

1. "No provisions of this Act or any other act of Congress designating areas as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, nor any guidelines, rules or regulations issued thereunder, shall constitute the establishment of an expressed or implied right to the acquisition, diversion, appropriation, use or flow of water to the federal government because of the designation except in full compliance with states' water laws."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes any wilderness legislation until such time as the question of reserved water rights on federal lands is resolved.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in the event that the question of reserved water rights is resolved, and that wilderness designations are developed at the local level through a collaborative process, PLC will defer to the locally impacted permittees and ranchers in supporting or opposing proposed wilderness designations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that existing Wilderness Study Areas should be immediately evaluated for release.

PLC-508
2022
SPECIAL USE AREA DESIGNATIONS

WHEREAS, the United States has designated BLM wilderness, USFS wilderness, wildlife refuges, primitive areas, national conservation areas, and other protected areas far in excess of the national need,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC strongly opposes the unilateral designation of national monuments or other special use areas which conflict with private property rights or restrict the continued multiple use of federal lands, or otherwise run counter to state and local government and community interests.

PLC-509
2022
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

WHEREAS, the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is being interpreted to include all lands suitable for grazing and all activities resulting of grazing,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports legislation requiring that section 106 of the NHPA shall not delay or impede the authorization or reauthorization of any activity on federal lands where such activity has been previously authorized; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this legislation contain provisions which shall not delay or

impede the maintenance of existing facilities nor the approval, construction, or maintenance of environmental mitigation measures.

PLC-510
2026
GRAZING PERMIT BUYOUTS AND RELINQUISHMENT FOR PURPOSES OF RETIREMENT

WHEREAS, there are compelling environmental and socio-economic reasons to protect viable livestock operations that include federal grazing permits, and

WHEREAS, efforts have been made to authorize the buyout and/or relinquishment of grazing permits for purposes of their permanent retirement, and

WHEREAS, the ranching industry needs a short-term policy that addresses the immediate challenge posed by the introduction of the buyout proposal and a long-term policy that addresses the causes and effects of the creation of vacant grazing allotments on public lands, and

WHEREAS, programmatic permit retirement encourages permit buyouts,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes any net loss of grazing AUMs and opposes grazing permit buyouts, except in case-by-case circumstances where a buyout is supported by the PLC affiliate in the affected state in a specific area only.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes permit relinquishments being handled in programmatic fashion by matrices in land use plan documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports compensation of permittees for loss of income when they are forced to relinquish grazing permits because of government policy and conflicts with other multiple uses that render grazing impractical.

PLC-511
2026
CONSERVATION FUNDING

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports federal legislation with a conservation purpose that does not include acquisition of land for public ownership but does include funds for wildlife management and other purposes approved by PLC.

PLC-512
2022
MARKET BASED CARBON SEQUESTRATION

WHEREAS, some states have promulgated regulations to mandate reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, federal policies related to climate change policy target reduction of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, recent EPA greenhouse gas emission inventories have shown that agriculture is a minor source of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, agriculture offers a readily available, low-cost source of offsets that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and provides cost containment in a cap-and-trade system, in addition to a variety of ecosystem services that improve environmental and social conditions for the American public, and

WHEREAS, public rangelands represent an opportunity to sequester carbon and other greenhouse gas emissions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC actively engages in the development of market based policy that identifies agriculture and carbon sequestration as a viable offset strategy, and that:

1. Provides financial incentives for implementing grazing management practices that sustain or increases carbon sequestration, and
2. Allows public lands permittees to receive financial incentives for implementing management practices that sustain or increase carbon sequestration which may require new management practices not currently used to be applied to permits as agreed to be the agency and permittee, and
3. Would not allow livestock to be removed or a reduction of AUMs from federal lands, and
4. Minimize costs imposed on livestock producers and society generally, and
5. Provides for unlimited agricultural offsets that includes recognition and inclusion of practices for early adopters, and
6. Does not require the reporting of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions; and which, and
7. Makes a substantial or significant reduction in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions below current levels.

PLC-513
2023
DEATH TAX

WHEREAS, ranches are frequently sold into smaller parts upon the death of the owner because of the family's inability to pay the estate tax on the property, and

WHEREAS, loss of ranches impairs the ability of agriculture communities to stay intact and young people to be in and enter into the business, and

WHEREAS, selling off ranches also leads to loss of open space and the conservation benefits from that space,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports abolishing the estate tax (death tax).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes any proposal to repeal the stepped-up basis provisions not tied to repeal of the death tax.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, independent of death tax repeal, the Internal Revenue Code should be expanded at 26 U.S.C. § 2032A (Valuation of certain farm, etc., real property) to increase ease of transfers.

PLC-514
2023
FARM BILL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, ranchers in the West are the best stewards of the land, and

WHEREAS, ranchers may wish to take advantage of Farm Bill conservation programs to enhance their stewardship,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports legislation and administrative policies to make Farm Bill programs as responsive to the needs of western producers as possible.

PLC-515
2026
NATIONAL MONUMENT DESIGNATIONS

WHEREAS, United States Presidents have aggressively designated millions of acres of land across the western United States as national monuments through use of the Antiquities Act, and

WHEREAS, monument designations continue to lock down the land and restrict multiple uses to the point of elimination through restricted access and increased regulation, thus destroying the social and economic fabric of the local area, as well as the high level of ecological integrity which merited its designation, and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Antiquities Act is to designate "the smallest area essential to ensure the proper care and management of the objects to be protected,"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC strongly support modification of the Antiquities Act to include:

1. A requirement for congressional approval of Presidential Designations, and
2. A requirement that existing grazing preference including both active and suspended us AUMs be maintained, and
3. A requirement that approval be require by local residents and stakeholders, and
4. An exemption of western states from the Antiquities Act, and
5. A requirement that appropriate economic and environmental review be completed prior to national monument designations.
6. A requirement that a designation is site-specific and designates only the smallest footprint possible to comply with the Antiquities Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC work toward the reversal, repeal or reduction in size of National Monument designations, consistent with the aforementioned purpose of the Antiquities Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in the meantime, PLC will work with locally affected members and land management agencies to ensure that management plans for monuments incorporate livestock grazing and other multiple uses.

PLC-516
2026
MEXICAN BORDER AND IMMIGRATION REFORM

WHEREAS, current security measures and law enforcement assets deployed on the United States-Mexico border are not sufficient to secure the border, resulting in a situation which is having severe negative impacts on livestock producers ranching on and near the border, and

WHEREAS, current public policy tends to discourage legal, orderly and accountable immigration, resulting in extensive damage to private property and natural resources, and

WHEREAS, there is a tragic human cost to would-be workers, especially women, entering the

United States which includes traveling as much as a week across our deserts, dying of thirst, suffering with other medical issues, assaults, coyote abuse and bandits, and

WHEREAS, there is monumental environmental damage currently being permitted by allowing crossers to tramp across National Forests, Wildlife Refuges, Wilderness areas, National Conservation areas, and private ranches since current Border Patrol "choke-point strategy" results in an average of 8.5 pounds of trash left by each crosser and miles of paths beaten out through environmentally sensitive habitat, and

WHEREAS, thousands of U.S. citizens living between the border and attempted apprehension sites 5, 10, even 100 more miles north of the border are currently living in no man's land, subject to violence and burglaries, and

WHEREAS, foreign scouts are on our mountain tops inside the United States north of the international border and are guiding "human mules" carrying destructive and very socially costly drugs into the U.S. through hundreds of square miles of southern Arizona currently de facto ceded to their operational control, and

WHEREAS, the Government Accountability Office estimates that the Border Patrol apprehends only about 64 percent of the undocumented border crossers, and a Los Angeles Times report reveals than an analysis of Predator Drone Vader surveillance data showed "Border Patrol Agents apprehended fewer than half of the foreign migrants and smugglers," and

WHEREAS, achieving immediate border security is the most important factor in protecting U.S. citizens from illegal activity associated with smuggling,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports reform of immigration policy and implementation of a legal, safe and accountable guest-worker program which accommodates documented temporary guest-workers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the United States government compensate federal grazing permittees for costs incurred to repair and remediate damage caused by illegal immigrants and U.S. Border Patrol attempts to enforce current border policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the United States government act to:

1. Secure the border along the international boundary, and
2. Add sufficient personnel to secure the border, and
3. Provide its personnel with all the modern technology and resources necessary to enforce security at the international boundary, and
4. Enhance civil and governmental communications to provide full coverage throughout the border region.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC advocates that the ineffective current Border Patrol "defense in depth" strategy — which permits crossers to freely utilize rural areas adjacent to the border — be changed to a policy of securing the border at the international boundary.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports Congressional action to promptly extend equal protection to border area residents by exempting the Border Patrol from the multiyear delays resulting from current environmental law compliance processes to enable effective patrolling of rural areas of the actual border and construction of needed infrastructure within a one-mile strip immediately adjacent to and north of the southwestern border in order to secure the border at the border.

PLC-517
2026
NATIONAL HERITAGE AREAS

WHEREAS, PLC already has a Land Use policy that outlines acceptable state and federal land planning and supports local land planning,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC shall vigorously oppose National Heritage Areas.

PLC-518
2022
EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE ACT

WHEREAS, the Equal Access to Justice Act (EAJA) and other fee-shifting statutes provide for the award of attorney fees and other expenses to parties in litigation against the government, and

WHEREAS, an eligible party may receive an award when it prevails over the government, and

WHEREAS, the Congressional intent of EAJA and other fee-shifting statutes was to overcome the inability of many Americans, to combat the vast resources of the federal government in administrative and federal court adjudications and to redress the imbalance between the government acting in its discretionary capacity and the individual, and

WHEREAS, in a 6-year period, non-profit environmental groups have filed thousands of lawsuits and in turn the federal government has paid out billions in taxpayer dollars in settlements and legal fees under EAJA and other fee-shifting statutes in cases against the U.S. government, and

WHEREAS, there is no significant accounting or oversight as to how the money is being allocated,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports more stringent oversight by the Department of Justice and accounting to Congress and to the public for awards made available through EAJA and other fee-shifting statutes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC urges Congress to conduct hearings to ascertain the extent of the misuse of these fees and expense awards and to require an annual report of EAJA awards to the relevant committees in the House and Senate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports specific Congressional initiatives to reform EAJA and other fee shifting statutes to prevent their abuse by self-serving non-profit organizations.

PLC-519
2023
LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY FIXES FOR GRAZING PERMIT ADMINISTRATION

WHEREAS, current federal laws and regulations, and the judiciary's interpretation thereof, regarding federal grazing permit administration have created a malfunctioning system whereby radical environmental groups are able to stymie on-the-ground management and use through an aggressive litigation strategy, and

WHEREAS, these issues of concern include:

1. Ease for activists to gain interested public status.

2. The burden of proof is borne by the grazing permittee in the administrative appeals process.
3. The Office of Hearing and Appeals does not follow the APA standard of proof as it relates to resource decisions.
4. The elimination of an automatic stay of a BLM decision when it is appealed.
5. The APA does not currently apply to USFS permittees.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC shall seek the following changes to federal laws and regulations:

1. The FLPMA and NFMA should be amended to require that participants in the grazing permit decision making process have constitutional or Article III standing.
2. The burden of proof should comply with the burden set by the APA in requiring that the federal agencies bear the burden of showing that their decisions are correct in law and in fact.
3. The standard of proof should be changed so that the BLM has to prove its case by a preponderance of the evidence.
4. BLM's grazing regulations and the appeal regulations should be amended to provide that decisions are automatically stayed if appealed by the affected permittee unless fact specific circumstances support a decision in "full force and effect."
5. The NFMA should be amended so that USFS permittees can challenge agency decisions "on the record" under the APA.

PLC-520
2026
STATE ENTITLEMENTS

WHEREAS, the federal government owns and controls vast areas of land and mineral resources in many states, particularly in the West, and

WHEREAS, these states have minimal ability to control and manage the development and use of these resources, and

WHEREAS, the property tax base of these states is greatly diminished by this federal ownership of resources, and

WHEREAS, Congress has acted to reduce the inequities caused by this federal ownership by providing for certain payments to the states to be derived from these resources,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC strongly opposes actions by the federal government that have taken Abandoned Mine Land monies, Payment in Lieu of Tax (PILT) payments, impact aid, and other monies to which the states are is entitled, that have withheld federal mineral royalty payments due the states and that further threaten to permanently confiscate these funds.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports all efforts by the states to assure timely recapture and continued receipt of these funds.

PLC-521
2022
TRANSFER OF FEDERAL LANDS

WHEREAS, the TGA, Multiple-Use and Sustained Yield Act, FLPMA, NFMA, and other federal statutes (the Acts) collectively contain a strong mandate for multiple-use management of federal

lands and grazing in particular, and

WHEREAS, proper management of the federal estate is not possible without the extraordinary contribution made by federal grazing permit holders, who steward hundreds of millions of acres of federal land to the benefit of all Americans, and

WHEREAS, despite this mutually beneficial relationship, federal land management has strayed from that mandate – ignoring local input, disenfranchising federal grazing permit holders, and crippling the local economies that depend on the livestock industry and other multiple uses, and

WHEREAS, frustration over failures in federal land management have caused some to seek the wholesale transfer of these lands to the states, which — due to changing demographics and urbanization in the West — could potentially result in unintended consequences like lost preference rights, erosion of multiple use, and destabilization of the western livestock industry
— all to the detriment of land health,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC demands the restoration and proper application of The Acts, in particular the mandates for multiple use and protection of grazing rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC will seek and advocate for enhancement of the role of state and local government input and authority into the land use planning and management of federal lands where appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC recognizes that wholesale transfer of federal lands is distinctly different from the orderly transfer of federal lands marked for disposal by the federal land management agencies, which can be mutually desirable and beneficial for all parties. PLC will support the latter when such mutual agreement exists and where care has been taken to preserve grazing protections in the process.

Industry Philosophy/Range Practices

PLC-600
2026
STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the stewardship experimental program has demonstrated that diverse interests can reach consensus leading to the institution and installation of sound range management practices and improvements,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that participants in the stewardship program be offered after-the-fact billing of grazing fees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC encourages the extension and implementation of this program on additional federal ranges whenever requested.

PLC-601
2026
COUNTY AND COMMUNITY STABILITY

WHEREAS, America's counties and rural communities are dependent upon the natural resources on public (federal) lands, and

WHEREAS, natural resources provided by the management of our public lands are important to

the economy and prosperity of the nation, and

WHEREAS, resource-dependent counties and communities of the nation are not adequately considered when federal lands management agencies decide on outputs from these public lands, and

WHEREAS, federal land management agencies are reducing the outputs of the federal lands far below sustainable levels without regard for natural resource- dependent counties and communities, and

WHEREAS, planning for outputs from the public lands is not done with the best interests economic or otherwise, of the nation or resource-dependent counties and communities in mind, and

WHEREAS, to ensure natural resource-dependent counties and communities are protected, there should be laws to direct public agencies to consider the effect of their actions on these counties and communities, and

WHEREAS, counties and rural communities are an important part of the culture and economic base of the nation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC is in full support of national legislation to give explicit consideration to natural resource dependent counties and communities in the federal land planning process. Recognition of these counties and communities should come in the form of identifying minimum production levels which should be produced from lands surrounding these counties and communities. These counties and communities should also be given maximum consideration during any planning process which would affect output production from public lands.

PLC-602
2026
COOPERATIVE RANGELAND RESEARCH

WHEREAS, rangelands produce large quantities of forage inedible by man, but readily converted by grazing animals into high quality protein for human consumption, and

WHEREAS, investment in rangeland research has lagged far behind other areas of research concern and deserves increased emphasis as the most energy-efficient form of agriculture, and

WHEREAS, investment in agricultural research produces a high return in production and efficiency for each dollar invested,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports passage of legislation which will provide funds to qualified state universities on a matching basis for research in rangeland management, and an appropriate level of funds for other rangeland research activities.

PLC-603
2026
COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, local voluntary involvement in the coordinated resource management planning (CRMP) process is critical if the process is to be useful and effective in resolving local conflicts between counties, state, and federal agencies and user groups,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC:

1. Supports limiting membership on CRMP committees to local representatives of user groups, and
2. Supports the participation of the appropriate government officials on such committees, and

3. Supports procedures to ensure that CRMP committee members are qualified to represent the interest they purport to represent, and
4. Will only support the establishment of CRMP committees when the rule of consensus is adhered to in decision making.

PLC-604
2026
LIVESTOCK PRODUCER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the livestock producers operating on the federal lands be acknowledged and considered full professionals in their field by the federal land management agencies and respective state fish and game managers in the planning and management programs and process within the boundaries of their ranching operation and will be included in the professional teams.

PLC-605
2023
FEDERAL LANDS RECREATION

WHEREAS, public lands are dedicated to the beneficial use of all the people, and

WHEREAS, the basic concept underlying use of public lands by the people is that of multiple use,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC engages in the continued dialogue surrounding the complexities of recreation, conflicts with livestock grazing, and the lack of management on our multiple use landscapes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC recommends that the federal agencies administering federal lands continue to maintain and enforce a true multiple use policy and oppose any influence by policymakers or outside groups to move toward a single-use management strategy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, responsible recreation on federal lands is compatible with livestock management when practiced in a manner consistent with multiple use mandates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, federal agencies shall not use permitted livestock grazing as mitigation for recreational impacts.

PLC-606
2024
WILDLIFE MIGRATION CORRIDORS

WHEREAS, wildlife migration corridors are receiving increased attention and advocacy from conservation groups as a landscape-scale tool for wildlife management, and

WHEREAS, on February 9, 2018, DOI Secretary Ryan Zinke signed Secretarial Order 3362 titled “Improving Habitat Quality in Western Big-Game Winter Range and Migration Corridors” (hereafter “the Order”), and

WHEREAS, the stated purpose of the Order is to “improve the quality of big-game winter range and migration corridor habitat on federal lands under the management jurisdiction of DOI in a way that

recognizes state authority to conserve and manage big-game species and respects private property rights," and

WHEREAS, Section 3 of the Order outlines the need to work with landowners to improve such corridors "through voluntary agreements" while also directing staff to "review and use the best available science to inform development of specific guidelines for the Department's lands and waters," a clear reference to land use plans, and

WHEREAS, Section 4(a)(3) directs the BLM, FWS, and National Park Service to assess the sufficiency of existing land use plans to accomplish the purpose of the Order and develop an "Action Plan that summarizes information collected" and establishes a "clear direction forward" which includes "habitat management goals" and "measurable outcomes," both of which typically result in inappropriate restrictions on grazing and ranching activities, and

WHEREAS, the cumulative result of the Order is prioritization of big-game habitat conservation and restoration over other multiple-uses on federal lands, which is contradictory to the statutory multiple-use and sustained yield mandate of the BLM, which will consequently result in inappropriate impacts to adjacent private lands,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC primarily supports rescission of Secretarial Order 3362,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, secondarily and short of a full rescission of the Order, PLC urges the DOI to clearly define the role of nongovernmental organizations and associations in the coordination process outlined in Section 4(a)(1) of the Order to clarify that only affected parties or those who possess relevant site-specific knowledge be allowed to participate,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes inclusion of additional habitat management goals, measurable outcomes, wildlife management, or wildlife habitat conservation and restoration activities in land use plans as a result of this Order,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC urges that any policy or guidance issued by DOI during implementation of the Order be consistent with all relevant state and local statutes, plans, and regulations, including but not limited to multiple-use and sustained yield mandate, open range laws, legal fence construction and maintenance requirements, wildlife management plans, or functional equivalents, etc.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, fully realizing the unintended consequences of the implementation of this Order to the greatest extent possible, PLC should try to incorporate the positive aspect that working ranches have on wildlife management into this effort.

PLC-607
2024
CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE

WHEREAS, Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is a progressive, fatal disease that affects the brain, spinal cord, and many other tissues of deer, elk, and moose, and

WHEREAS, CWD can decimate wildlife populations once established, and

WHEREAS, CWD belongs to Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathy (TSE) family of diseases, and

WHEREAS, CWD is currently found extensively throughout the United States and Canada in both wild and captive Cervidae, and

WHEREAS, many states are passing laws and adopting regulations that prohibit the importation of Cervidae and potentially infected carcass parts of harvested Cervidae, and

WHEREAS, the prions responsible for CWD spread between wildlife through body fluids and this transmission can be through direct contact or through environmental contamination, and

WHEREAS, there is no scientific connection between CWD and domestic livestock,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC works with state and federal agencies to help limit the spread of CWD.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that PLC encourages continued research into transmission of TSE diseases.

PLC-608
2024
COLLABORATIVE FOREST AND RANGELAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 established the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) to encourage the collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration of priority forest landscapes, and

WHEREAS, there are several other efforts aimed at fostering collaborative management of federal lands including the Good Neighbor Authority and Shared Stewardship agreements, and

WHEREAS, these efforts have potential to allow for more common-sense, site-specific management of federal lands but they have been primarily focused on timber projects, and

WHEREAS, livestock grazing provides multiple benefits to federal lands, including fuels management, but grazing as a beneficial treatment in USFS and BLM projects has been largely overlooked as implementation of these collaborative approaches have occurred,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, as CFLRP comes up for reauthorization, PLC shall seek for the inclusion additional language which specifically acknowledges grazing and recognizes the contribution of grazing to fuels management and fire risk reduction, forest and rangeland health, and the sustainability of local economies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC shall also promote the inclusion of livestock grazing in other collaborative programs and the coordination of other planned treatment methods with grazing to result in more effective and complete restoration efforts and other projects.

PLC-609
2024
LIVESTOCK BRANDING

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports the uniform USFS application of ownership and branding rules to all permitted animals, including bison.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports the designation of bison as livestock.