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A weekly analysis of western ranching politics brought to you by the Public Lands Council.



**THIS WEEK IN
WASHINGTON**

Public Lands Disposal Language in the "Big Beautiful Bill: What Grazing Permittees need to know.

Over the last several weeks, conversation around draft language circulated by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has dominated many natural resources communities.

Most of the information circulating in the public space is inaccurate, out of date, or simply opportunistic.

Here's what grazing permittees need to know: On June 11, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Mike Lee (R-UT) published draft text of the Committee's portion of the Senate's proposed reconciliation bill.



- Subtitle C of the draft text would direct the Secretary of Agriculture and Interior to go through a process to dispose of between **0.5% to 0.75% (maximum of 3,322,500 acres)** of the land owned by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM), respectively, **to address local housing or associated community needs**. The Secretaries would solicit nominations of BLM and USFS lands to be disposed within 30 days, consult with Governors, local governments, and Tribes, and publish a list of tracts to be disposed every 60 days thereafter. **The original draft included lands with valid existing rights, specifically calling out mining claims, grazing permits, and more.** A subsequent working draft was leaked that eliminated the specific call out of grazing permits, which raised concerns that grazing lands were at risk. **PLC has secured commitments from Senate leadership to ensure any final language will specifically and definitively protect grazing allotments and permits from any eligibility under the disposal criteria.**
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A final version of the Senate's draft is still under negotiation.

The short version:

- Any maps that may be circulating are based on an outdated draft of language that considered what might be *eligible*, but not *suitable* for disposal under the language. While federal agencies have tools to dispose of land for a variety of purposes, FLTFA and RPPA disposals often languish and are never completed.
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PLC's Position: PLC has policy to support disposal of tracts to make land management more contiguous and be responsive to local needs, as long as we see no loss of AUMs and protect grazing access to the landscape.

PLC is committed to protecting grazing and land management, and to having an honest conversation about what's real, what's a myth, and what's really at stake in important conversations about land management.

[Read PLC's Fact vs. Fiction Issue Briefing here.](#)