



**June 2025**  
**A COLLECTION OF MONTHLY UPDATES FROM PUBLIC LANDS COUNCIL  
LEADERSHIP AND STAFF**



**The President's Perspective**

Summer is in full swing, and as we come to the end of June, I am excited to highlight the hard work of the PLC team as they travel around the country promoting the core values of the Public Lands Council.

After more than a year, PLC, NCBA, and ASI have all been working hard to amplify the culmination of years of work through a National Animal Disease Preparedness (NADPRP) grant from USDA to develop recommendations for public lands ranchers on movement criteria if there were to be a foreign animal disease outbreak, like Foot and Mouth Disease.

After several years of work, these recommendations were provided to USDA and published to supplement the Secure Beef and Secure Sheep and Wool Supply Chain plans. Now, PLC is supporting states as they "exercise" this guidance, running through scenarios in their own states after successfully receiving grant funding awarded by APHIS.

Recently, I was in New Mexico representing PLC on the advisory board for their state's project. I am excited to see states pursuing funding and training exercises because while the national guidance is an important baseline, these state-specific exercises allow New Mexico ranchers to implement their knowledge for best prevention of FMD at the local and state level.

In the fast-paced environment of D.C. our team has been working hard to promote our core values and support government legislation efforts created to reduce risks to farmers and ranchers such as wildfires and wolf attacks.

These efforts have not gone unnoticed, and our team has been tracking the issues our members care about most.

One of the primary issues we have been keeping our eye on is the hot and dry summer our members have been experiencing across the country. As summer hits its hottest point, we are striving every day to provide members with resources to combat, prevent, and help alleviate the threat and devastating effects of wildfires. Our team has prepared wildfire resources and assistance tools for those impacted.

As we prepare for the rest of the summer ahead, I look forward to continuing work on our upcoming annual meeting in Arizona, it is such an honor hosting our members for a special week of networking, advocacy, and policy updates.

As the month of June comes to an end, we are quickly approaching one of my favorite holidays, the 4th of July. I hope you all enjoy a nice break to celebrate our country and spend time with family and friends.

I hope to see you all at the upcoming affiliate meetings and at our annual meeting in September!



**Tim Canterbury**  
President, Public Lands Council



### From the Desk of the Executive Director

It's almost inconceivable that it's already June, but the beginning of the year seems as though it was decades ago. Like many of you who are transitioning through branding, turnout, and haying, our Washington team and leadership have been juggling an active Congressional schedule, full-speed-ahead on an aggressive regulatory agenda, and a slew of wonderful affiliate meetings to begin the summer season.

While the schedule has been ambitious and left little room for extra time, the halfway point in the year gives us an opportunity to mark progress. So far this year, the

administration has taken steps to revise or rescind:

- 2001 Roadless Rule
- 3 Endangered Species Act regulations that burdened landowners and reduced opportunities for voluntary conservation
- BLM Conservation and Landscape Health Rule
- USFS EIS prioritizing retention of old-growth
- Outdated and inefficient NEPA processes

Additionally, we've seen proactive steps on:

- Addressing the wildfire crisis through Executive Order 14308 and the Joint Memo from Secretaries Burgum and Rollins
- Revising BLM grazing regulations
- Intent to take important steps to reduce on-range populations of wild horses and burros through policy statements in the Interior Budget Request
- Correcting ill-advised policy on depredation confirmations in Arizona and New Mexico
- Ending the decades-long pendulum over BLM sage grouse management plans
- Restoring true multiple use and holding bad actors accountable

The list could go on, but as we look through our PLC Policy Book which guides our work in Washington, the impact of our members, affiliates, and collective voice is clear.

PLC's long-term investments in research and management are also coming to fruition. After a decade of investment, collaboration and work, the University of Idaho and many rangeland partners were successful in demonstrating that not only are we able to clearly refute the false narrative that typical grazing management on federal lands is somehow harmful for sage grouse, the work shows that grazing can be crucial in helping sage grouse chicks survive in harsh environs.

**Let me be clear, this Grouse and Grazing study is a big deal.** In a world where we are always seeking the best available science to inform landscape management, PLC will continue to invest in research that helps us to inform ranchers' management and agencies' policies.

With a busy summer ahead, I urge all of you to take a moment to connect with your neighbors and friends near and far. Even six months into this year, the public lands ranching community has already lost dear friends and family members. We will remember each of them and work hard to ensure their legacies of leadership continue.



**Kaitlynn Glover**

Executive Director, Public Lands Council

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## Policy Update

As we prepare for the Fourth of July holiday, I want to wish everyone a safe and joyful Independence Day. This is a time to celebrate the freedoms we cherish and reflect on the strength and resilience of the communities that form our great nation, including the ranching families who manage our public lands every day.

This month, I had the privilege of attending the Wyoming Stock Growers Annual Convention and Trade Show, as well as the Colorado Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention. Thank you to both organizations for the warm welcome and the opportunity to share updates on PLC's work in Washington, D.C. Your continued engagement is essential as we navigate a complex and rapidly evolving policy landscape.

June in the nation's capital has felt like a whirlwind, with events happening all at once and nothing slowing down. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins has made significant announcements that reflect the proactive leadership we value at PLC. One of the most crucial developments was the USDA's plan to construct a New World Screwworm fly dispersal facility at Moore Air Base in Edinburg, Texas. While there are currently no confirmed cases in the U.S., the screwworm is only 700 miles from our southern border. Eradication efforts are costly, and early action is critical. We commend Secretary Rollins and her team for their vigilance and commitment to protecting U.S. livestock and the beef supply chain.

Additionally, the Secretary announced the rescission of the outdated 2001 Roadless Rule, which imposed sweeping restrictions on nearly 59 million acres of National Forest System land. This long-overdue action aligns with President Trump's Executive Order 14192, aimed at reducing regulatory burdens and empowering local decision-making. For ranchers and land managers, this change means greater flexibility to undertake essential management activities such as road construction, thinning, and timber harvest which are vital for reducing wildfire risks. Given that nearly half of the affected acres are located in high fire risk zones, this policy shift is a welcome development for the West.

Wildfire management has been a top priority this month. Over 29,000 wildfires have already been reported in 2025, prompting swift action from both the Administration and Congress. President Trump signed an Executive Order consolidating wildfire programs at USDA and DOI, which streamlines the federal response and reduces barriers to tools like prescribed fire. Secretary Rollins has been clear about the urgency of the situation and is taking necessary steps to prepare for another potentially dangerous fire season.

On Capitol Hill, lawmakers are echoing that sense of urgency. Senators Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Ted Budd (R-NC) introduced the National Prescribed Fire Act of 2025, a bipartisan effort to expand the use of prescribed fire during safer, cooler months. Companion legislation has also been introduced in the House. Meanwhile, Senators Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) and John Curtis (R-UT) introduced the Strategic Grazing to Reduce the Risk of Wildfire Act, which would empower agencies to collaborate with local stakeholders to implement targeted grazing strategies to reduce hazardous fuels. PLC strongly supports these initiatives to integrate grazing into our national wildfire response strategy.

The House Natural Resources, Federal Lands Subcommittee, held a hearing this month focused on innovative wildfire prevention methods. From AI-powered satellite detection to geospatial fire modeling, the message was clear: smarter technology leads to faster, safer responses. H.R. 471, the "Fix Our Forests Act," was a key focus, and PLC welcomes any efforts to advance this critical legislation and empower on-the-ground land managers.

As Congress rushes to finalize reconciliation before the President's July 4th deadline, votes are ongoing in the Senate. As we speak, the Senate is voting on various amendments to the package which may determine whether the Senate passes the full text to discuss with the House. Importantly, the Senate's version of the tax package mirrors many provisions passed by the House. This proposal would make the 2017 Trump tax cuts permanent, raise the estate tax exemption to \$15 million per individual and \$30 million per couple (indexed for inflation), and permanently extend the casualty loss deduction for victims of federally declared disasters—critical support for livestock producers affected by wildfires and other natural disasters.

As we conclude June and prepare for the holiday week, PLC remains your voice in Washington, ensuring that your concerns are heard. This month has kept us busy, but we are committed to addressing the issues that matter most to you as producers here in Washington, D.C. Enjoy your Fourth of July!



**Garrett Edmonds**

Director, Public Lands Council

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## Commentary on Public Lands

Members of Congress attempt to maximize the contents of a reconciliation bill for two main reasons: the Senate passes relatively few bills when compared to the House, so using a bigger bill as a "vehicle" to move other legislative priorities is an efficient way to advance priorities, and a reconciliation bill only needs 50 votes to pass the Senate rather than the typical 60-vote threshold that's required to begin debate on a legislative measure. In margins as thin as we see in the House and Senate this Congress, Members are using every available opportunity to get wins for their members.

This year's reconciliation bill, dubbed the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, has faced some unique challenges. After a failed attempt in the House to attach language to dispose of certain federal lands was derailed by Representative (and former Interior Secretary) Zinke (MT), it was the Senate's turn. Energy and Natural Resources Chairman Mike Lee (UT) made several attempts to attach language that would provide for disposal of 1.75% (and eventually 0.5%) of federal lands in the West.

The first proposal was initially eliminated by the Senate Parliamentarian who is responsible for determining whether contents of the reconciliation bill are germane and pass the "Byrd Bath". Lee went back to the drawing board with a narrower proposal that decreased the percentage to be disposed, made more explicit that lands could be used for only housing and related *housing* infrastructure, and further limited eligible geographies.



## Both proposals protected grazing allotments and permits.

Lee ultimately withdrew the second set of proposed language before the Senate considered the bill. Many folks are celebrating this as a "win", even those who have previously supported disposal and limiting the federal estate.

This process has been disappointing: much of the conversation around the language was filled with inaccuracies and outright falsehoods, all of which spread like dreaded wildfire.

PLC does not have language to support disposal of lands for housing - PLC doesn't have housing policy at all, but the public outcry against this language seems to be edging closer to a widespread opposition to disposal of *any* acres, not just those suggested by a Senate Republican - and that's a problem for all of us. Congress is notorious for adding wilderness and other restrictive designations, but opposing decreasing regulatory restrictions at every turn.

While the reconciliation bill will not contain disposal language, it's crucial we continue to have the conversation about whether federal acres are serving their highest and best use for the American people - even if it means disposal of isolated tracts. PLC will continue to protect grazing at every turn, regardless of land ownership.

## Affiliate News

Idaho was buzzing this month with a handful of dignitaries from Washington joining the Governor's Trail Ride. Hosted by Governor Brad Little and assisted by Idaho Cattle Association, government officials, state partners, and ranchers alike gathered at the Shaw Cattle Company and rode through a BLM allotment to discuss wildfire, invasive species, and the need to improve federal policy.



*"We are moving full speed ahead with reforms that empower land managers and put the right tools in the hands of those on the front lines. Under President Trump and Secretary Burgum's leadership, we're working shoulder to shoulder with states like Idaho to protect communities, safeguard our natural resources, and ensure we're not just reacting to wildfires, we're doing the groundwork to get ahead of them,"* said **Kate MacGregor, Deputy Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior.**

*"Governor Little's trail ride is a unique opportunity to see firsthand the truly unique natural treasures in this great country and hear how we can work closely to ensure the future viability of our public lands. President Trump and Secretary Rollins have made it a priority to further our working relationship with the States to improve responsible forest management and be the most prepared in history for this summer's already active fire season,"* said **U.S. Department of Agriculture Deputy Under Secretary for Natural Resources & Environment Kristin Sleeper.**

## Real Rancher Spotlight: Bronson Corn

Ranches run deep in history and are a true testament to how our producers are stewards of the land. This is true for Bronson Corn, a fifth-generation rancher and a lifetime resident of Roswell, New Mexico. His family's operation started in 1872, when his ancestors moved to settle on the land in Roswell. To this day, through many hardships along the way, the land is still in operation. Bronson's dedication to continuing the legacy for his family's operation is rooted in passion and hard work.

One inspiring part of Bronson's story is the grit to continue the legacy even through tough times. Alongside the cattle and goat operation, the Corn family used to run a sheep herd



as well. However, devastating attacks from coyotes and the regulations against hunting predators resulted in a sellout of the sheep operation. This was not easy by any means, but Bronson understood that sometimes you must make difficult business decisions.

Truly a steward of the land, Bronson has implemented a rotational grazing system that has allowed him to utilize all parts of the diverse landscape in New Mexico. From mountains to high plains to rolling hills to canyons, the landscape has its benefits and downfalls. Bronson has taken this as an opportunity to utilize grazing management efforts to run cattle on all sections. This decision has directly impacted the land by increasing stocking rate and improving pasture health.

Speaking of decisions... Bronson has continued to find innovative ways to better the operation. In 2011-2015, Roswell, NM received five inches of rain, total. Working in an industry that is very weather dependent can make it hard in times such as this. Bronson, however, took this as an opportunity to build a feedyard to supplement the cows. Now, his innovation has allowed him to not only provide supplementation when needed, but also to run a preconditioning yard throughout the year. With record low cattle inventory, it is because of these decisions that there is a continuation of beef supply for our consumers.



Not only is Bronson working on the land, but he is working for the next generation as well. His time in the New Mexico Cattle Growers' Association has allowed him to speak up about the issues that impact all ranchers. Battles must be fought, voices must be heard, and the next generation must be ready to step up. Bronson has found out the importance of this statement and works daily to make it better for the generations to follow. A true advocate for this industry and an inspiration to all.

To read more stories real rancher stories [click here!](#)



## Public Lands Council 57th Annual Meeting

The PLC 57th Annual Meeting will be **September 16-18, 2025, in Flagstaff, Arizona!** As we look ahead to the fall, we are excited to be heading to the Grand Canyon State, land of saguaro cacti, turquoise, and bolo ties! Our Annual Meeting will be held at the **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Flagstaff**. We will have a robust lineup of activities, speakers, and events this year, and you won't want to miss out! Saddle up and get ready for a fun week in Arizona!

### Registration

Registration is now open for Annual Meeting! Early-bird pricing for Full Registration is good through **August 15, 2025**. You can find the registration portal through the link in our socials or click [this link](#)!

- **Early-Bird Full: \$375**
- **Student/Spouse: \$250**
- **Government: \$150**
- **Media: \$300**

### Sponsorships

Interested in being a sponsor for Annual Meeting? We have a full package of options just for you! You can find our Sponsorship Package on our social media or by visiting our website by clicking [here](#)! For further information or questions, please contact Kaitlynn Glover at [kglover@beef.org](mailto:kglover@beef.org).

## From the Sorting Pen: New PLC Public Policy Interns



**Grace Steenbergen**

Hi, my name is Grace Steenbergen, and I am a 6th-generation rancher



**Brittley Bowers**

Howdy, my name is Brittley Bowers, from Fredericksburg, Texas. I grew



from Pine Bluffs, Wyoming. I grew up on a small Gelbvieh purebred and balancer cow-calf operation and have showed breeding cattle for over a decade. When not on the ranch, I am a fourth-year pre-law political science honors student at Baylor University in Waco, Texas. This summer, I am honored to be a Public Policy Intern with the Public Lands Council and National Cattlemen's Beef Association in Washington D.C. As the summer continues, I look forward to serving farmers and ranchers from Wyoming and beyond.

up heavily involved in agriculture with my days spent working on my grandad's ranch in the Texas panhandle. Recently, I graduated from Texas A&M University with a Bachelor of Science in animal science. This upcoming fall, I will start graduate school at West Texas A&M University with an emphasis in feedlot nutrition. As a public policy intern this summer with the Public Lands Council and National Cattlemen's Beef Association, I am excited to learn how to best serve our producers here in Washington D.C.



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