



**Forest Service**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# Rangeland Management Virtual Family Meeting



January 28, 2026



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# USDA Grazing Action Plan and Program Updates



# Program Modernization and Policy Backdrop

## Updated Directives

- Finalized Chapter 10 and 20. Chapter 50 submitted for final clearance.
- Provide line officers more flexibility, improve clarity, and make the directives more usable for staff.

## Rangeland Futuring

- Initiated in 2021, gleaned input from employees and stakeholder groups.
- The foundation of the new Grazing Action Plan is built upon Rangeland Futuring efforts.



**For program information and resources visit the WO Rangeland Management SharePoint site:**

<https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/fs-wo-rangmng>



# USDA Plan to Fortify the American Beef Industry:

Strengthening Ranches, Rebuilding Capacity, and Lowering Costs for Consumers



*Grazing and rangeland management are central to the multiple-use missions of both the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).*

*The USDA-DOI Grazing Action Plan positions grazing as a central element of federal land management by expanding access, reducing barriers, modernizing processes, and elevating producer voices. These coordinated efforts will strengthen rancher resilience, support herd rebuilding, and maintain working rangelands as a vital part of America's agricultural and environmental fabric.*

*-Secretary Rollins*



# New USDA Grazing Action Plan

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- 1. EXPANDING ACCESS:**  
Prioritizing Vacant Allotments
- 2. ELIMINATING DELAYS:**  
Streamlining Permitting and Authorizations
- 3. ELEVATING RURAL AMERICANS:**  
Giving Ranchers a Voice
- 4. MAXIMIZING FLEXIBILITIES:**  
Keeping Working Lands Working
- 5. IMPROVING COORDINATION:**  
Aligning Agencies to Better Serve Ranchers



## USDA Grazing Action Plan #1

### EXPANDING ACCESS: Prioritizing Permitting Vacant Allotments

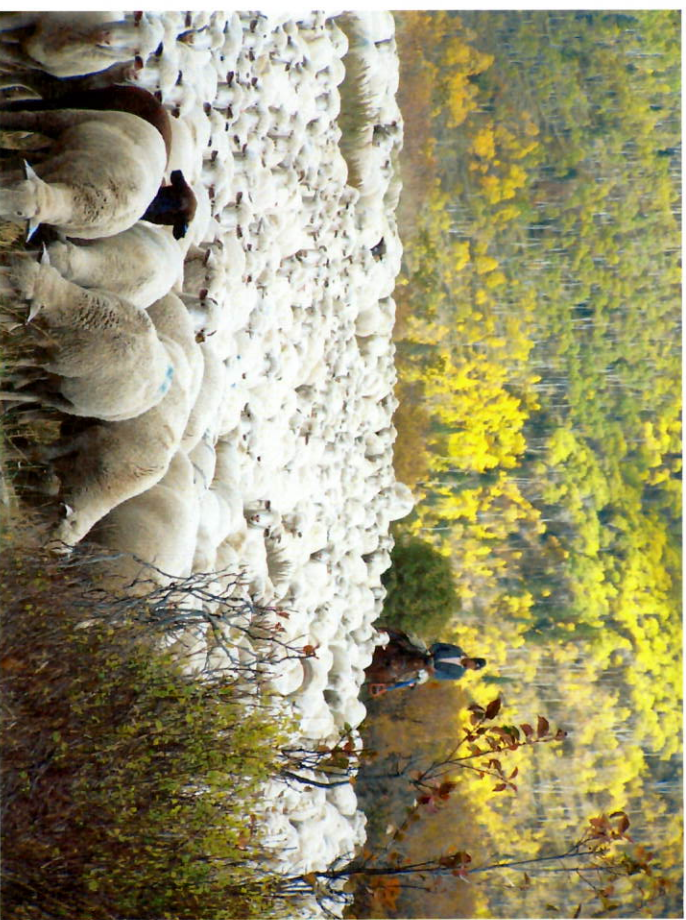
- Unlock Grazing Opportunities
- Maintain Consistent Permitted Average Animal Unit Months (AUMs) and/or Head Months (HMs)
- What you can do:
  - Prioritize Data Cleanup
    - Verify Allotment and Pasture Status
    - Validate GIS layers in EDW
  - Move forward with Vacant allotments that are ready to be stocked.
  - More detailed strategy to handle other vacant and Vacant-unavailable will be coming.



## USDA Grazing Action Plan #2

### ELIMINATING DELAYS: Streamlining Permitting and Authorizations

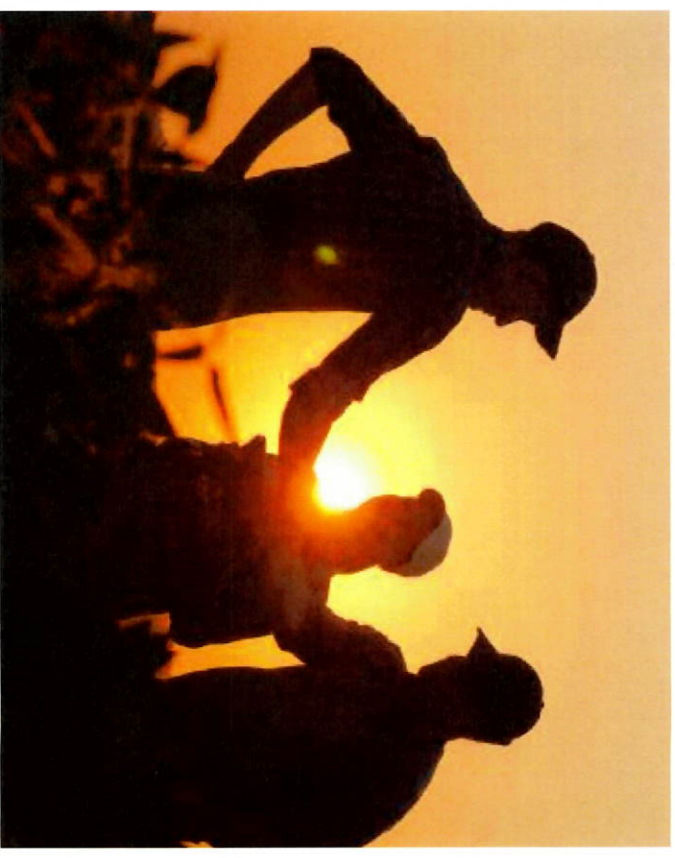
- Further develop National-level FS grazing regulations and guidance as needed to improve coordination with grazing permittees.
- Utilize new and existing tools for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- Consistent with applicable law, utilize all available emergency authorities that enable the agency to expedite authorization of livestock use.



## USDA Grazing Action Plan #3

### ELEVATING RURAL AMERICANS: Giving Ranchers a Voice

- Strengthening engagement and mutual understanding between federal agencies and grazing communities through structured listening, learning, and on-the-ground collaboration.
- Conversations will include:
  - ✓ Successes – what has gone right and can be learned from that
  - ✓ Roadblocks and constraints to relationship success.
  - ✓ Understanding of what pressures the ranching communities face.



## USDA Grazing Action Plan #3 (continued)

### ELEVATING RURAL AMERICANS: Giving Ranchers a Voice

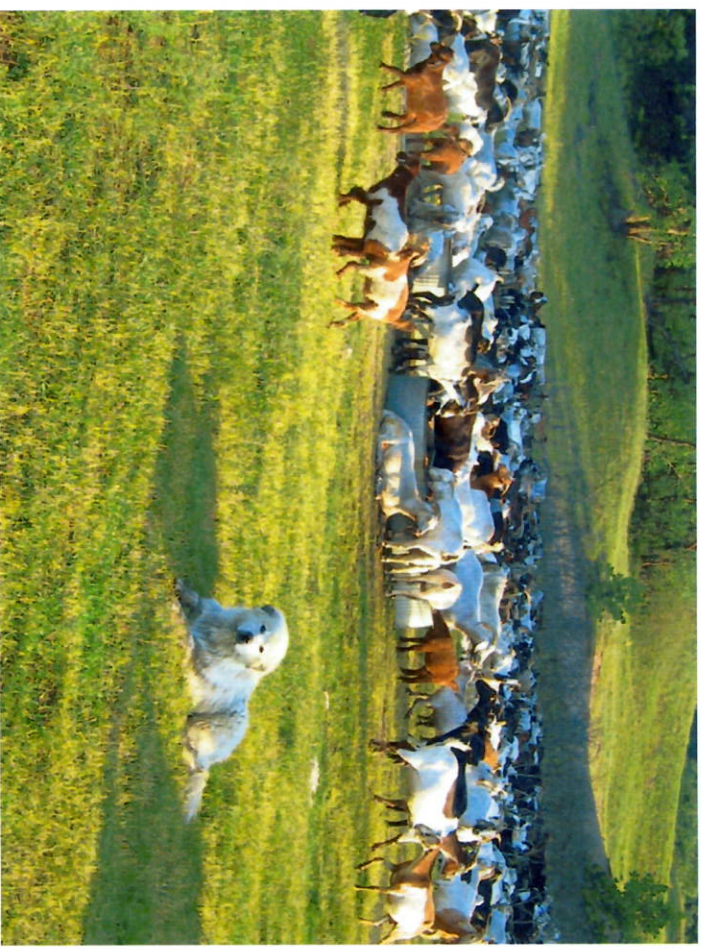
- Initiate Ranch Immersion and Training Programs for new and existing federal employees (Mentor Mentee Program).
- Include a Grazing Permittee Wildfire Liaison as part of every response by a FS or BLM to a wildfire incident where permitted grazing may be affected.
- Find Grazing Information When You Need It. Prioritize communication through websites and local engagements.



## USDA Grazing Action Plan #4

### MAXIMIZING FLEXIBILITIES: Keeping Working Lands Working

- Expand and implement outcome-based grazing practices across NFS lands to improve the management of federal lands grazing
- Maximize the Use of Targeted Grazing
- Invest in and apply new technologies and innovative grazing practices
- Expand the use of Shared Stewardship and Good Neighbor Authority



## USDA Grazing Action Plan #5

### IMPROVING COORDINATION: Aligning Agencies to Better Serve Ranchers

- The Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service will maximize cooperative work and management of rangelands
- Create consistent practices and policies for grazing permit administration across the BLM and FS Rangeland Management
- Facilitate greater permit flexibilities for permittees on FS and BLM, especially where there are shared boundaries and jointly managed allotments.
- Explore opportunities to share staffing resources on joint projects or in shared boundary areas



# USDA Grazing Action Plan: Implementation Tracking

**Coordination among staff to track and communicate progress in development & implementation:**

## Goals

- Ensure integration of deliverables into programs
- Address barriers to GAP implementation
- Integration to leverage efficiencies
- Efficient communications of progress towards and achievements of Grazing Action Plan goals

## Key Tasks

- Consistently track quantitative/qualitative metrics
- Assessment of milestones and achievements
- Facilitate engagement & reporting to leadership
- Assist developing communications to field staff & Line Officers, e.g. *webinars, Letters of Direction, etc.*



## On the Horizon for 2026...

- National Cattleman Beef Association, Cattle Con. February 2-6
- Society for Range Management Annual Meeting and Listening Session Feb 9-11
- Targeted Grazing Workshop Feb 24-25, Monthly webinars starting March 17
- Wednesday Range Directive Workshops March 18, April 15 & 29, May 6 & 20
- Office Hours with Kaylene Monson

