

Minutes

Subcommittee, BLM Grazing Rule

Crook County Natural Resources Committee

May 28, 2026

Members Present: Laura York, Melinda Kestler, Cliff Kiser, Tim Deboodt

Members absent: Mike Lunn

Public present: None

Meeting was called to order by Laura York @ 1:00 p.m.

Laura started the meeting by providing an over all review of the handout provided by Mike. She had made some typographical corrections and will provide those to Mike.

The purpose of the meeting today was to begin a discussion and review of the proposed BLM Grazing Rule, published in the Federal Register, May 12, 2026 (Vol 91, No. 91, pgs. 26852-26885).

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/12/2026-09387/revision-of-regulations-for-grazing-administration-exclusive-of-alaska>

Cliff provided a historical review of the requirements of BLM permit holders to have base property and the ability to provide proof of animal feed for the months in a year when permitted animals are not on their BLM grazing allotment. Historically permits were held as “rights” and were allowed to transfer with generational inheritance and used as collateral in bank financing.

Part 4100 – Grazing Administration

Melinda discussed the confusion around the word ‘mentee’ and beginning rancher. Tim pointed out that other federal agencies such as the Farm Service Agency (USDA) had programs for beginning rancher/farmer, the BLM use was not defined. This section of the proposed regulations does not clearly state the intention of the BLM in creating the category nor how it would be applied. (pg. 26856 – Definitions).

Page 26856, the term “interested party” is being defined as to make it explicit that anyone wishing to participate in the management of livestock grazing on public lands must have a cognizable interest in such management on the allotment or allotments for which they wish to participate as a member of the interested public. The Committee discussed whether this new definition narrowed public participation in the NEPA review of permit issuance.

Part 4120.2

Specific to Coordination by the County, does this proposed definition change try to supersede FLPMA and NEPA which call out Coordination by local governments in planning and project development?

Part 4130.4 Changes in Terms and Conditions of Permit

These revisions allow for the addition of 21 days in front of the approved dates for use and 21 days after the end of the approved period of use. The Committee would be more comfortable in using “adaptive management” to meet vegetation objectives which eliminates grazing plans by calendar dates and instead focuses on approved vegetation objectives for the allotment/pasture/site.

Part 4150.1 Violations

BLM is proposing to require notification to the owner of livestock, and document such contact, when there is an instance of unauthorized use and may conclude that such use may be nonwillful and treated as “incidental”. The Committee supports this change.

Part 1700.3 Rapid Landscape Scale Condition Assessment

The Committee discussed the value of landscape scale assessments and favor this change.

Cliff discussed historical, grandfathering actions from previous changes in the Grazing Rule. Cliff suggested that the Committee support the retention of any specific rights granted in previous rule changes by the BLM and that language in past Acts passed by Congress not be impacted or changed. He would try to provide examples at the next meeting.

At 3:00 p.m., the Committee recessed its discussions until June 3, 2026 @ 1:00 p.m. Meeting to be held at the Extension Office Conference Room..

Meeting adjourned