



“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”
A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals

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91-2 PL 2

Livestock Grazing Rights

WHEREAS: Certain Congressmen have stated they will introduce legislation to raise Grazing Fees to an unaffordable fee which would put livestock operators out of business and eliminate grazing (an historical use) on public lands; and

WHEREAS: Grazing is the most valuable use to manage forage on Federal Lands; and

WHEREAS: Public land grazing is a viable use for Colorado and contributes two hundred million dollars per year to the economy of Colorado plus four thousand seven hundred (4,700) jobs. Many Western Colorado counties and communities are dependent on the livestock industry for their existence; and

WHEREAS: The Western states are over fifty percent (50%) federally owned land and grazing was introduced as a tool to stabilize the western livestock industry; and

WHEREAS: Present laws require permittees to own base property to obtain a permit to graze on public lands and game animals are dependent on these private lands for spring and fall habitat. If public lands grazing is eliminated, these lands will be sold to developers and the green belt environment will be gone. This type of development will change the western environment; and

WHEREAS: The Agencies had two multi-million studies done to determine a workable fee structure and the present formula was initiated and accepted by economists, Congress and the President; and

WHEREAS: Preservation and Environmental groups have stated that livestock grazing should, and will, be eliminated from public lands. Pricing the fee so high that grazing will be unaffordable as one method of accomplishing that goal; and

WHEREAS: A study conducted by the Utah State University Economics Department indicates that in 1991 – combining fee costs with non-fee costs will force permittees to pay more than fourteen dollars (\$14.00) per A.U.M., which is far above the amount paid for private land leasing, which is the superior land; and

WHEREAS: Western Colorado is over seventy-eight percent (78%) federal land, agriculture and livestock grazing is the main industry for most western Colorado communities.

WHEREAS: Permittees have spent thousands of dollars and effort improving the ranges by obtaining Section 4 permits (100% paid by permittee), also on a cost-sharing project (50% paid by permittee), thus, improving the range which benefits and enhances wildlife. Permittees spend thousands of dollars on maintenance of all improvements – water development, reseeding, riparian management, etc.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CLUB 20 supports the present grazing fee formula now contained in the Public Rangelands Improvement Act of 1978.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT CLUB 20 requests that field hearings be held on any legislation to eliminate or change the present method of determining a fair, affordable and equitable fee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT copies of this resolution be sent to the Governor of Colorado, the Executive Director of the Department of Natural Resources, the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation, U.S. House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, U.S. House Committee of Agriculture and the Commissioner of Agriculture for the state of Colorado.

Adopted February 15, 1991