



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

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95-9 PL 1
Rangeland Management Act

WHEREAS: 73% of Western Colorado is owned by the federal government, mostly in the form of BLM and Forest Service lands, and

WHEREAS: The use of these lands for grazing is critical to the economic viability of Western Colorado's livestock industry and to the communities supported by that industry, and

WHEREAS: The Interior Department's recently-adopted revised grazing regulations provide an unfair and unacceptable environment for the livestock industry to operate in, specifically in terms of the makeup of local grazing advisory councils, lack of incentives for investment in the range resource by the permittees, lack of provisions to encourage stability through the use of extended permit terms, and lack of needed efficiencies in the administration of grazing management on these public lands, and

WHEREAS: The formula for determining the livestock grazing fee needs to be established in an equitable manner, in law, in order to provide a fair return to the public and a reasonable rate for permittees,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 supports the concepts embodied in 5.852 and H.R.1713 as introduced, specifically:

- Addition of public representatives on local grazing advisory councils while still allowing majority representation by those with an economic interest at stake,
- Adoption of a new formula for establishing the public lands grazing fee in order to ensure a fair return to the public and a reasonable rate for permittees,
- Provisions to ensure proper management of public lands resources through NEPA-documented land use plans, range monitoring and enforcement,
- Streamlining of the NEPA documentation process to allow for full public participation in the development of area land use plans without unnecessarily encumbering local agency officers and preventing them from carrying out sound range management.

Adopted 9-8-95