

SAGE SIGNALS

The Voice of the Nevada Livestock Industry

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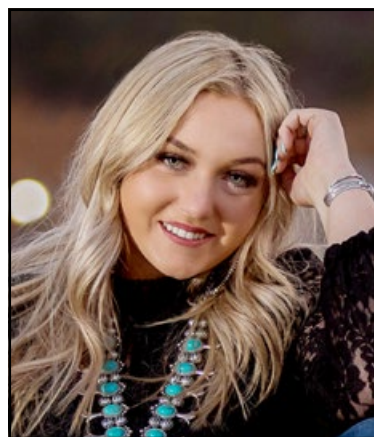
PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE NCA MEMBERSHIP

Nevada Cattlemen's Association Announces 2022 Scholarship Recipients

By: Martin Paris, NCA Executive Director

On behalf of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association (NCA), we are pleased to announce two scholarship recipients this year. The NCA would like to congratulate Mackie Griggs of Elko, NV for being selected as the 2022 Marvel-Andrae Scholarship recipient and Madison Borkman of Spring Creek, NV for being selected as the 2022 NCA Scholarship recipient.

The NCA has annually awarded a scholarship to a first-year college student beginning to pursue an education within the agricultural industry. This award is open to all Nevada high school graduating seniors planning to attend a junior or four-year university and majoring in an agricultural related field. The NCA also awards a second scholarship, the Marvel/



(Submitted Photo)

Madison Borkman, 2022 NCA Scholarship Recipient.



(Submitted Photo)

Mackie Griggs, 2022 Marvel/Andrae Scholarship Recipient.

Andrae Scholarship, which is targeted toward students either going into their first year of college or already enrolled in college and working towards a degree in agriculture economics, agriculture business, or the animal/meat science fields. This year we would also like to recognize Agri Beef Co. for an additional \$50,000 donation to our Marvel-Andrae Scholarship fund. The NCA greatly appreciates our partnership with Agri Beef and thank them for their continued support of students pursuing careers in agriculture.

Both scholarships are awarded to exceptional students who work hard, excel academically, and work to represent agriculture in a positive

— Continued on page 3 —

As part of the NCA Scholarship application process, applicants are required to write an essay on any topic within the beef industry. Please check out our website at nevadacattlemen.org to read Madison's essay.

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designed to provide a forum for collaboration, community, and coordination between rangeland scientists and those who apply the science such as ranchers, farmers, and land managers.

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The Society for Range Management (SRM) has officially launched Good Grazing Makes Cent\$ (GGMC) and Nevada Cattlemen's Association (NCA) is now an affiliated organization. GGMC is a new, innovative program, de-

Range' video series, monthly digital newsletters, the blog, and an invitation to join conversations on the Facebook Group. On top of that, full SRM membership is included and is complimented by access to the Society's two journals and discounted SRM events.

Receive Your Discounted Access Today

To purchase your discounted membership to this program, follow the steps below:

1. Go to: <https://goodgrazing.org/product/membership/>
2. Click "Become a Member"
3. In your cart, apply the coupon code that was provided to you by email or call the NCA office at (775) 738-9214 to obtain the coupon code.
4. Complete the form and create your login to access all content

Your GGMC membership will be followed with an email providing instructions to access all SRM member benefits as well.

We look forward to providing this program and its practical resources and tools to our members and future members.



Nevada Beef Council Update — July 2022

Your Checkoff Dollars at Work

By Makenzie Neves, Manager of Producer Education and Engagement



Western States Campaign

With summer heating up, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) on behalf of the national Beef Checkoff, is kicking off the Western States Regional Campaign. The goal of this campaign is to inspire consumers in the Western U.S. to choose beef for their outdoor grilling meals and place beef as the top protein above other meat and plant-based proteins. The campaign will mirror the national summer grilling campaign flight which will run the length of the summer, from June 6th through August 30th, in order to capitalize on the peak summer grilling season.

The campaign will include video ads on YouTube that feature beef's new spokesperson Tony Romo, Google paid search digital ads, and summer grilling audio ads on Spotify. The video, digital, and audio ads will

be targeted to consumers in Nevada, Arizona, California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana, and funded by state beef councils from Idaho, Iowa, North Dakota, and Montana. Media spend will follow relative consumer population of the seven states where ads will be targeted.

Funding for this campaign keeps beef top-of-mind for Nevada consumers during the summer grilling months, and allows the Nevada Beef Council (NBC) to leverage state-level producer checkoff dollars in other areas. One of the NBC's values is to use beef checkoff dollars effectively and efficiently, and this campaign partnership does just that. That makes summer grilling a campaign producers can feel good about.

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Jon Griggs, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association

I love a good western show. I usually don't mind a bad western show.

The most watched show on cable TV is Yellowstone, are you a fan? I confess it's the trainwreck I can't not watch. I've been asked repeatedly by urban friends if that's how it is out on the ranch, my favorite reply is absolutely! Especially the notion that everybody on ranches and reservations is exceptionally attractive.

Not all of us are fans for sure, there are those of us who believe shows like that make a mockery of our culture. It's completely understandable, interesting to me though that

some of the biggest detractors of a show like Yellowstone for the misinterpretation of our way of life also don't get why the Washington Football Team changed their name.

We can debate P.T. Barnum's notion that "There's no such thing as bad publicity" but one thing is for sure, a discussion with our beef and ecosystem services customers about a show like Yellowstone is a great foot in the door for the discussion about what's really going on out here, and how their food is raised.

I hope you'll take every opportunity to do that and rest assured the leadership of your Association absolutely is. Oh and our train station in Elko is a pretty scary place too.

Scholarships: *Continued from page 1*

way. We thank all the students that applied for these scholarships and are confident that they will all be strong future advocates for our ranching and farming communities.

Mackie is currently attending the University of Idaho and is majoring in Animal and Veterinary Science Production and minoring in Rangeland Management and Ecology. Mackie has made the Dean's list each all five semesters of her college career. She is a member of the Block and Bridle Club, Student Idaho Cattle Association, the Communications Chair for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Student Affairs Council, and the President of Operations for the Pi Beta Phi Fraternity for Women. She plans to pursue a career that relates to the beef industry and eventually follow in her father's footsteps by someday managing the Maggie Creek Ranch where she grew up.

Madison recently graduated from Spring Creek High School and will be attending Ranger College later this fall in Texas to pursue an associate degree in Agriculture Business/Finance. She has been actively engaged in several organizations throughout her high school career including FFA, the Nevada State High School Rodeo Association, and 4-H. After completing her associate degree, Madison plans to transfer to a 4-year university to earn her bachelor's degree and

hopes to pursue a career in agricultural loan lending.

Congratulations again to Mackie and Madison. We wish them good luck on their future endeavors! We are very proud of them and are confident that they will continue to serve the industry well. We look forward to all that they will accomplish.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We would like to thank the following people for joining or renewing their membership with Nevada Cattlemen's Association between May 25, and June 24, 2022.
(New members are in bold.)

- Joe & Meghan Brown
- Eureka Livestock Company, Jim Etcheverry
- J Bar J Shorthorns
- **Tyler Morrow**
- Roche Ranches, Inc., Dusty C. Roche
- **The Puppy Store Las Vegas, David Salinas**

UPCOMING EVENTS

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— July 7-8, 2022 —

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by email at vcasmith@gmail.com

Soils Workshop

— July 21-22, 2022 —

Cottonwood Ranch, Wells Nevada

Register by calling Vicki Smith at

(775) 472-0222 or

by email at vcasmith@gmail.com

2022 NCBA Cattle Industry Summer Business Meeting

— July 25-28, 2022 —

Nugget Casino Resort, Sparks, NV

www.ncba.org/events/summer-business-meeting

2022 Public Lands Council Annual Meeting

— August 24-26, 2022 —

Cody, WY

<https://publiclandscouncil.org/>

Nevada Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention

— November 30-December 2, 2022 —

Nugget Casino Resort

100 Nugget Ave, Sparks, NV

www.nevadacattlemen.org



Official Publication of the Nevada Cattlemen's Association

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Hanes Holman, Pres.-Elect

Dave Baker, 1st Vice Pres.

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Nevada Cattlemen's Association Offers Quality Workers' Compensation Program to Nevada's Ranch and Farm Owners



The Nevada Agricultural Self Insured Group sponsored by The Nevada Cattlemen's Association offers an affordable workers' compensation option to the standard insurance market for Ag related businesses with employees in Nevada.

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NCA Joins NCBA in Fighting Onerous SEC Climate Rule

Today, the Nevada Cattlemen's Association joined comments filed by the National Cattlemen's Beef Association (NCBA) on the Securities and Exchange Commission's controversial greenhouse gas disclosure rule.

The rule would require publicly traded companies to report direct emissions in addition to emissions from all segments of their supply chain. The rule's broad scope would burden cattle producers and require the reporting of farm or ranch level emissions data. There is currently no way to accurately measure this data on the individual level and estimates would

expose producers to legal liability.

The comments filed with the SEC call for the agency to limit the scope of the rule to only direct emissions from publicly traded companies. The SEC is a Wall Street regulator and this attempt to regulate private farms and ranches is a massive overreach of the agency's authority.

"Cattle farmers and ranchers are America's original conservationists. Thanks to decades of innovation and continuous improvement, cattle production accounts for just 2% of overall U.S. greenhouse gas emissions," said NCBA Environmental Counsel

Mary-Thomas Hart. "Cattle producers have a proven track record of sustainable practices and should not be penalized with overreaching rules from an agency with no expertise in agriculture."

Additionally, industry-wide emissions data is already collected through the Environmental Protection Agency's annual Greenhouse Gas Inventory and U.S. Department of Agriculture Lifecycle Assessments. In comments, the Nevada Cattlemen's Association and NCBA urged the SEC to rely on these existing metrics rather than place a burdensome mandate on individual cattle producers.

OPINION

Polar Bear Habitat—Now Coming to a Backyard Near You

Opinion Editorial by Karen Budd-Falen, Budd-Falen Law Offices LLC

The U.S. Supreme Court is tasked with, among other things, reviewing federal regulations and determining whether they comply with the statutes passed by Congress. In 2019, the U.S. Supreme Court did just that with the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by stating that before the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can designate an area as "critical habitat," first the area "must be" habitat. The Supreme Court did not say that the area could become habitat at some time in the future or that the federal government could blackmail you into restoring an area into habitat in the future. The Court said ESA critical habitat must first be habitat. Despite this plain language and knowing that every student learned the difference between present, past and future verb tenses, the Biden administration has repealed the Trump regulations implementing the Supreme Court's habitat definition. According to Biden, it was necessary to rescind the Trump definition because the government wants to designate (and regulate) areas that do not meet a listed species needs now but may be able to "in the future" due to "natural processes or restoration."

Take a practical example. My husband and I have a ranch north of Cheyenne, Wyoming. Our property supports a cow/calf operation; several horses; a decent cow dog; two worthless but loveable mutts; several barn cats and our daughter's homely pot-belly pig. Lodgepole Creek runs through our property, although the creek dries up in the late summer and fall if we don't get any rain. Two hundred and seventy-eight (278) miles past our house, Lodgepole Creek drains into the South Platte River (a navigable water).

Currently, our private property is not designated as habitat for any ESA species. We use our property to raise beef to feed our family, this nation, and the world. Under the Trump definition of habitat, the federal government would have to scientifically show that our land currently contains (present verb tense) at least one of the physical or biological features necessary to support a threatened or endangered species to define our property as "habitat." However, under Biden's pronouncement, our private land could be designated as habitat today — for a species that cannot live there today — because the species might live there "some-day" based on natural processes (i.e., climate change) or by blackmail.

Ah, but the government says, "oh no, your land is not affected because the designation of critical habitat does not impact private property use." What the government doesn't mention is that if you need a permit from any federal agency

to, for example, put in a water tank (which we would if we wanted one near Lodgepole Creek which falls under the Corp of Engineer's jurisdiction), the government could condition the granting of our permit on us "restoring" our property as habitat for a species that doesn't live there. In one interview a Biden official was asked whether the new rule means that the federal government could force someone to tear up a paved parking lot and plant trees as habitat and she admitted that could happen. Never mind that parking lot may be necessary for the survival of a small business, or the economic cost of doing the "restoration" to the property owner, or the amount of time that the parking lot had been in place. Also never mind that this will add to sky-rocketing inflation, more food insecurity, less jobs, and greater burdens on small businesses.

And don't get me started on whether our ranch could support polar bears based on climate change. The Biden decision doesn't give a timeframe on when the "natural processes" need to happen. In 10 years or 10,000 years, climate change could make our backyard polar bear habitat so it could be designated as habitat now. So, watch your backyards, farms, ranches, and homes. Based on "natural processes" or "restoration," you could be living in polar bear habitat too.

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Off-Season Cattle Grazing to Help Control Fire Danger from Invasive Cheatgrass

New study utilizes supplemental feeding to attract cattle to infested pastures

RENO, Nevada – Cheatgrass, an invasive annual grass that has invaded Nevada rangelands, is responsible for much of the increasing wildfire danger in the Intermountain West. However, scientists at the University of Nevada, Reno have discovered that fire danger can be reduced through the application of targeted cattle grazing in the dormant growing season by attracting the cattle with stations containing protein feed supplements.

“Our work establishes that protein feed supplements in the fall and early winter can attract cattle to locations dominated by cheatgrass, significantly reducing the standing fine-fuel biomass by more than 50%, while making room for native grasses to grow,” Barry Perryman, professor of rangeland sciences at the University of Nevada, Reno said. “This research builds and affirms other studies that show dormant season grazing helps control the dominance of cheatgrass,”

One of the greatest ecological threats to ecosystems of the Intermountain West has been and will continue to be invasive annual grasses. The non-native cheatgrass (*Bromus tectorum* L.) is the most problematic invasive annual grass at regional spatial scales. It is estimated that cheatgrass covers 11,000 square miles of the Great Basin, and it is the ecologically dominant species on more than 20% of the sagebrush steppe.

Strategic supplementation provides a valuable tool to target cattle grazing at specific locations within cheatgrass-invaded systems to reduce fine fuel buildup during the dormant season, according to the study published in Elsevier’s journal Rangeland Ecology and Management.

“It is difficult to concentrate animals in one place during spring for long enough periods of time to be of any use,” Perryman said. “However, cattle can be concentrated on cheatgrass during the fall, using supplementation as a tool. Reducing the amount of cheatgrass fuel carryover may effectively reduce the amount of total fuel available during the next year’s fire season. If several hundred pounds per acre of cheatgrass can be removed during the fall, through cattle grazing, that is several hundred pounds that will not be added to the next year’s fuel load.”

Managing supplement station placements and cattle grazing distribution near or bordering areas with high ecological value or social importance provides options for land managers to reduce fine fuels at targeted, manager-defined locations. Strategically placed supplements can reduce the cost of developing fence infrastructure, decrease fence and



Scientists at the University of Nevada, Reno have discovered that fire danger can be reduced through the application of targeted cattle grazing in the dormant growing season by attracting the cattle with feeding stations containing liquid protein feed supplements.

wildlife conflicts, and provide greater flexibility to change management locations depending on fluctuations in precipitation, cheatgrass biomass availability and management goals.

Perryman and the team of scientists used liquid protein supplements in October and November from 2014 to 2017 at a production scale working ranch with a herd size that ranged from 650 to 1,200 head of cattle. The study pasture was a mixture of rangeland and abandoned farmland heavily invaded by cheatgrass after farming ended there in the late 1970s. Vegetation on the site was dominated by cheatgrass with some areas also having a combination of cheatgrass and greasewood.

Where the cattle grazed along the transect line of the supplemental feeding stations, consumption of cheatgrass averaged 48% to 81%, with no differences detected between the closest and farthest supplement stations from water.

“While more research is needed to fully understand the extent of how far protein supplements can successfully attract cattle away from water in large pastures, our research indicates this distance can be up to two and a half miles on relatively flat cheatgrass-invaded areas during fall and early winter in northern Nevada,” Perryman said.

Under a scenario of near monocultures of cheatgrass, fall cattle grazing is a logistically viable tool to reduce the

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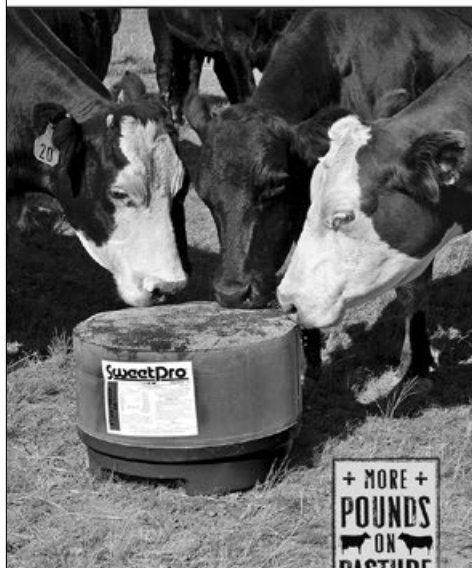
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amount of carryover fine fuels in large pastures.

“With strategic placement of supplements, we can direct this grazing to effectively create a linear fuel break,” Perryman said. “Cheatgrass can provide an important forage resource for cattle in much of the Great Basin and Intermountain West during the dormant season, and this can help during the fire season.”

Flexible grazing management options will facilitate the use of targeted grazing fuel reduction projects at strategic times, such as fall or winter, on rangelands of the Intermountain West and provide more opportunities to better match livestock production and vegetation management objectives in a “win-win” situation within annual grass-invaded systems, the authors conclude.

In earlier studies, a highly controlled, small-scale targeted spring grazing research project found that 80% to 90% reduction of above ground biomass reduced flame length and rate of fire spread during the following October. On sagebrush and native perennial grass plant communities, it was reported in another study that 40% to 60% reductions in biomass through winter grazing reduced flame height, rate of spread and area burned compared with an ungrazed control area.

Perryman and colleagues have two large demonstration projects underway in southeast Oregon and a similar study, without supplementation, in the Vale District, Oregon. The research operations also found benefits for cattle ranchers, and the rebounding of native grasses.

“Every operation is different,” Perryman said about ranchers adopting the idea. “It will benefit some and be of no utility for others. It has saved significant hay costs in our eastern Oregon demonstration projects.”

Perryman, who is also part of the University’s Experiment Station, said it appears native grasses are able to repopulate the areas where the cheatgrass has been reduced, whether from seeding or naturally.

“There was a major seeding effort on the study sight in 2018-19 by the operator (it was located on private land),” Perryman said. “In some instances areas may be seeded, while in other instances there are enough existing perennial grasses to respond. There are some published studies now showing increases in perennial grasses after about four to six years. Kirk Davies, a co-author of this study, has led that research.”

Authors of the journal article are Perryman, who is the chair of the Department of Agriculture, Veterinary & Rangeland Sciences in the College of Agriculture, Biotechnology & Natural Resources; lead author Mitchell Stephenson, who was a post-doctoral student of Perryman’s during the study and is now a range management specialist, Panhandle Research and Extension Center, University of Nebraska-Lincoln; Brad Schultz, professor and Extension educator, University of Nevada, Reno; Chad Boyd, Kirk Davies and Tony Svejcar, rangeland scientists with the U.S. Department of Agriculture –Agricultural Research Service in Burns, Oregon.



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Temporary Non-Use

Kathryn Dyer, BLM Nevada Range Program Lead

Dear Nevada Cattlemen's Association members, Temporary nonuse has been a topic for a long time, but recently it has come back up for a variety of reasons. Local and national questions regarding drought impacts, horse impacts, and even because of State Grazing Board grazing receipt returns. In today's article, I would like to explain the difference between simply not using AUMs and applying for temporary nonuse, and why it is important to apply for temporary nonuse instead of just not using all your AUMs.

There is a large difference between applying for temporary nonuse (such as on form 4130-1) and simply using less AUMS than your grazing permit/lease allows. We can call those AUMs simply 'unscheduled'. I will try to describe here the difference between temporary nonuse and unscheduled AUMs.

The first really big point I want to make is that nonuse is actually a type of approved use. According to 43 CFR 4100.0-5, temporary nonuse means the authorized withholding, on an annual basis, of all or a portion of permitted livestock use in response to a request of the permittee or lessee.

43 CFR 4130.1-1 Applications for grazing permits or leases (active use and nonuse), free-use grazing permits and other grazing authorizations shall be filed with the authorized officer (AO) at the local Bureau of Land Management office having jurisdiction over the public lands involved.

43 CFR 4130.2(g) -Temporary nonuse may be approved by the officer if such use is determined to be in conformance with the applicable land use plans, allotment management plan, or other activity plans and the provisions of subpart 4180 of this part.

43 CFR 4130.2(g)(2) Temporary nonuse for reasons including but not limited to financial conditions or annual fluctuations of livestock, may be approved on an annual basis for no more than 3 consecutive years. Permittees or lessees applying for temporary nonuse shall state the reasons supporting nonuse.

From the regulation cited above, we can see that temporary nonuse is an approved type of use. It must be applied for, usually on form 4130-1, and the BLM may or may not approve the nonuse. When nonuse is approved, it means that the AO is agreeing that it is more appropriate for the AUMS not to be used at all, for the reason specified, than for the AUMs to be used by another permittee. Courts acknowledge that there are times where BLM approve nonuse for more than 3 years for conservation and protective purposes. BLM has a National Instruction Memorandum (WO IM 2009-057, <https://www.blm.gov/policy/im-2009-057>) explaining why and how nonuse may be approved for over 3 consecutive years. Basically, the temporary nonuse is resulting in continued improvement.

However, it is also clear in the regulations that it is prohibited to have a grazing authorization and not make substantial use of it, also known as 'failure to use' the authorized AUMs.

43 CFR 4140.1 The following acts are prohibited on public lands and other lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management:

4140.1(a) Grazing permittees or lessees performing the following prohibited acts may be subject to civil penalties under §4170.1:

4140.1(a)(2) Failing to make substantial grazing use as authorized for 2 consecutive fee years, but not including approved temporary nonuse....

You can see from the regulation cited above that it is not acceptable to simply not use a grazing authorization. To add complexity, there is no definition of

'substantial' grazing use BLM-wide. In some offices, it may be defined as using over 50% of your AUMs; in others, over 70%; or perhaps it varies depending on the site. However your local BLM office interprets 'substantial', one thing that is consistent is that authorized temporary nonuse counts towards that substantial use, along with the actively used AUMs. Applying for temporary nonuse protects your AUMs from this "use it or lose it" clause, since temporary nonuse is an approved use.

We have now discussed how failure to use AUMs differs from temporary nonuse per the regulations. Unused AUMs are neither applied for nor approved; they are simply not scheduled. So now I will give an example in which an operator has a grazing authorization for 1,000 AUMs and writes on their courtesy application that they only want to run/be billed for 800 AUMs. They receive a bill for 800 AUMs and the other 200 AUMs are not nonuse, they are simply unscheduled (or failure to use) AUMs. They should not be included on the bill as "nonuse" unless the operator has applied for, and BLM has approved, the temporary nonuse. In this instance, if the operator applied for 200 AUMs of temporary nonuse and cited a reason such as drought or horses, and the AO approves the temporary nonuse, then the AO is saying they agree that nonuse is compatible with the resource objectives and that the AUMs will not be available for someone else to use. In this example, if the operator applied for 800 AUMs without applying for temporary nonuse for 2 consecutive years, then the AO could decide that those 200 AUMs meet the threshold of 'significant' and need to be used and that someone else can use them for that grazing year. While that is not a likely outcome, it is possible, however remotely, per the regulations, since it is a prohibited act to not make substantial use of your AUMs. Although I won't go into details here, rest assured there is a required process that would have to occur prior to any AUMs being made available for another user.

Also, in areas where we have excess wild horses, there are times when livestock operators will take some amount of grazing reduction. If those operators do not

— Continued on page 11 —

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Temporary Non-Use: *Continued from page 9*

apply for temporary nonuse and get it approved, then BLM does not have the data to show that there are responses and impacts to permitted use from these situations. In addition, BLM would have less internal justification for an emergency horse gather, for example, if there isn't approved temporary nonuse in the records for the impacted area.

Taking approved temporary nonuse should not be sole rationale to reduce active AUMs on a permit or lease at renewal. You may have heard accounts through the years of operators who experienced reductions in AUMs during permit renewals because they repeatedly failed to use all their AUMs over a long period of time. When this happens, it is not typically due to "failure to use" as opposed to temporary nonuse, and these instances are unique and hopefully do not discourage you from applying for temporary nonuse when it is appropriate for any reason. You may also have heard of situations where the total AUMs on a permit are not used, but the full amount is applied for and paid for, regardless of use, due to the fear of losing unused AUMs. This approach causes some big problems. First, it makes it difficult or impossible to properly understand the ecological data without accurate livestock data. Second, it creates a situation in which the BLM cannot answer to the public appropriately or accurately on the use of public lands, which is not beneficial to the range program. It also gives the public appearance that operators are not making adjustments to their operations for given environmental circumstances.

Another reason why it is important to apply for nonuse with a rationale is be-

cause of updates that BLM has done recently to the Rangeland Administration System (RAS), through which BLM creates grazing bills. These updates allow us to record a reason for the approved temporary nonuse in RAS, which is then available in the database. There are questions that arise at all levels, from local to state or national levels, regarding where drought impacts have been severe, where operators have been impacted with reduced forage and/or reduced use during drought. Ideally, we would be able to pull information from RAS showing the AUMs that were in nonuse due to drought, and then we would be able to show the regional and localized responses to the conditions.

I hope this article has clarified the difference between failure to use AUMs and authorized temporary nonuse and given you some good rationale to encourage applying for nonuse with a reason selected, or written in, when you are not using your full amount of authorized active AUMs. This will protect the AUMs on your permit from the "use it or lose it" clause, as well as helping to contribute to a data set showing how permittees/lessees take care of the landscape they are on. The consistent application of nonuse is a way to protect your AUMs while partnering with the BLM to provide information at all levels on how responsive and proactive our public land grazers are.

I hope this article has been informative. If you are left with any questions, or have any thoughts for future article topics, please contact Kathryn Dyer at kdyer@blm.gov.

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BLM Seeks Nominations

Sierra Front-Northern Great Basin and Mojave-Southern Great Basin Resource Advisory Councils (RACs)

Reno, Nevada — The Bureau of Land Management is seeking public nominations for its Sierra Front-Northern Great Basin and Mojave-Southern Great Basin RACs for vacant positions and positions that will become vacant. The Councils consist of citizens with diverse interests in public land management, including conservationists, ranchers, outdoor recreationists, state and local government officials, and energy industry representatives. The Councils provide advice to the BLM on public land issues.

“The Resource Advisory Councils are so important to making sound and well-informed decisions on public lands by directly interacting with BLM leaders. Being a RAC member is a commitment to America’s public lands, strengthening our relationships across boundaries, and ensuring the public’s voice is heard,” Jon Raby, BLM Nevada State Director said.

“Anyone who is interested in being a member should take advantage of this opportunity and apply. The RACs are a great resource for our agency and all Nevadans, we look forward to hearing from our diverse communities through these councils,” Raby added.

The Bureau, which manages more land than any other Federal agency, has advisory councils located across the West. The diverse membership of each Council is aimed at achieving a balanced outlook that the BLM needs for its mission, which is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.


The Councils are critical in assisting the BLM in continuing to be a good neighbor in communities served by the Bureau, providing advice and recommendations on issues including land use planning, fire management, off-highway vehicle use, recreation, oil and gas exploration, noxious weed management, grazing issues, and wild horse and burro herd management issues.

The descriptions for RAC positions are as follows:

- Category One – Public land ranchers and representatives of organizations associated with energy and mineral development, the timber industry, transportation or rights-of-way, off-highway vehicle use, and commercial recreation.
- Category Two – Representatives of nationally or regionally recognized

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environmental organizations, archaeological and historical organizations, dispersed recreation activities, and wild horse and burro organizations.

- Category Three – Representatives of state, county, or local elected office; representatives and employees of a state agency responsible for the management of natural resources; representatives of Indian Tribes within or adjacent to the area for which the RAC is organized; representatives and employees of academic institutions who are involved in natural sciences; and the public-at-large.

Nominations must be submitted by (30 days after FR notice publishes). To access the nomination application, go to https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/1120-019_0.pdf. For more information about serving on the Sierra Front-Northern Great Basin RAC, please contact Lisa Ross, Public Affairs Specialist, at (775) 885-6107 or lross@blm.gov. For more information on the Mojave-Southern Great Basin RAC, please contact Kirsten Cannon, Public Affairs Specialist, at (702) 515-5057 or k1cannon@blm.gov.

More information about the RACs is available at <https://www.blm.gov/get-involved/resource-advisory-council/near-me/nevada>.

Individuals may nominate themselves or others to serve on an advisory council. Nominees will be judged based on their training, education, and knowledge of the council's geographical area and must be residents of the State. Nominees should also demonstrate a commitment to consensus building and collaborative decision-making. All nominations must be accompanied by letters of reference from any represented interests or organizations; a completed background information nomination form; and any other information that speaks to the nominee's qualifications.



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