

SAGE SIGNALS

The Voice of the Nevada Livestock Industry

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY FOR THE NCA MEMBERSHIP

August Round Up

By: Martin Paris, NCA Executive Director

Happy August Nevada cattlemen and women. A lot has been going on in the policy world so far this summer especially when it comes to the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The Department of the Interior recently proposed a revision to section 10 (j) regulations under the Endangered Species Act to allow for the introduction of listed species to suitable habitats outside of their historic ranges. Yes, you read that correctly. We are slowly creeping toward the introduction of species in habitats they have never been before.

This proposal has been coupled with a recent decision in the Northern District of California which remanded and vacated three Endangered Species Act rules enacted during the Trump administration as well. The 3 changes that recently went into effect are:

1. The reinstatement of the blanket 4(d) rule which allows the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to extend protections against "take" to not only endangered species but threatened species as well.
2. The removal of the requirement that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service factor in possible economic impacts into the decision-making process on listed a species or designation of critical habitat.
3. The removal of alternative consultation mechanisms and established

deadlines for informal consultations.

All things considered; the Endangered Species Act is being retooled in a way that will not be friendly to livestock producers. NCA, with our partners, will continue pushing back against regulatory overreach under the ESA.

Also of note is the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) proposed 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 broad scope of the proposed rule would require cattle producers to report farm or ranch level emissions data if your beef ends up at a publicly traded retailer/processor. There is currently no way to accurately measure this data on the individual level and estimates would expose producers to legal liability.

The Nevada Cattlemen's Association joined NCBA in filing comments with the SEC calling for the agency to limit the scope of the rule and remind the SEC that emissions data is already collected through the EPA's annual Greenhouse Gas Inventory and USDA Lifecycle Assessments. We are hopeful that the SEC will realize the overreach the proposed

— *Continued on page 3* —

Seeking 2022 Teacher of the Year and 100,000 Mile Club Nominations

The Nevada Cattlemen's Association has started their annual quest for Teacher of the Year and 100,000 Mile Club candidates and are asking for your help in soliciting nominations.

The Teacher of the Year nominations must be an elementary, junior high, or high school teacher who incorporates agriculture into their regular curriculum, current Agricultural Education teachers are not eligible.

For example, a teacher who teaches a one week segment on agriculture and its importance to Nevada. Nominees may also include teachers considered in previous years but were not selected for the award. The winner of this award will receive a \$1000 school supply stipend, donated by Nevada Agriculture Foundation. The award recipient will also be recognized during the Nevada Cattlemen's Association's annual awards banquet on December 1st, 2022 in Sparks, NV at the Nugget Casino Resort.

Nominations must include a completed NCA Teacher of the Year application form. Anyone may submit a nomination form on behalf of a deserving teacher which is available at www.nevadacattlemen.org. Nominations close on November 1, 2022. Completed application forms may be submitted by email to nca@nevadabeef.org with "2022 Teacher of the Year Nomination" in the subject line; forms may be faxed to 775-738-5208; or sent by mail to, "Teacher of the Year Nomination," C/O Nevada Cattlemen's Association, P.O. Box 310, Elko, NV 89803.

We are also looking for cowboys or cowgirls who have logged 100,000 miles horseback. The annual 100,000 Mile Club Award is geared toward any Nevada resident who has ridden 100,000 horseback miles throughout their lifetime. Nominations should include a narrative story to chronicle the nominees' miles through their life horseback. Nominations for the 100,000 Mile Club Award are also open now through November 1, 2022 and may be submitted to the NCA office.

Please don't hesitate to call the NCA office at 775-738-9214 or by email at nca@nevadabeef.org for more information.

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PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Jon Griggs, President, Nevada Cattlemen's Association

Along with our Annual Convention, the Fallon All Breeds Bull Sale has been a key event for our Association. Buying and selling Range-ready bulls plus the social component of the Sale and the Churchill County Cowbells dinner/dance has become a tradition for producers from all over the State. We've been presented with some exciting opportunities recently. Lucy Rechel and the folks at Snyder Livestock have decided to hang up their bull sale spurs this year, which leaves a hole in the market for sure.

Also happening is the new 3C Event Complex recently completed in Fallon, which is a beautiful facility. Your NCA

Executive Committee with input from Bull Sale Committee Chair Maureen Weishaupt have agreed on a new sale along with Lucy and some of her consignors to be held at the new facility on our traditional sale weekend.

The Range-ready bulls we've come to expect plus bulls that have been performance tested at Snyder Livestock will be at auction in a new format at a beautiful new facility by a professional Sale Manager. Maureen and her Committee, along with all the past Committee Members and Chairs deserve our thanks for all the work put in to so many successful sales and the work they'll put toward this updated one! Look for information coming and a catalog this Fall, we hope you'll take part in this exciting new venture!

August Round Up: *Continued from page 1*

disclosure rule will create.

When we aren't beating the drum on some of these significant policy changes, NCA has been busy prepping for the upcoming 2022 NCA Convention and Tradeshow. This year we will be joining forces with the California Cattlemen's Association in Sparks, NV at the Nugget on November 30-

December 2nd. Please keep checking our website at nevadacattlemen.org for updates as things begin to take shape.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact the NCA Office at 775-738-9214 or by email at nca@nevadabeef.org. I hope everyone has a great rest of the summer!

State and Transition Model Workshop September 14 and 15

Synopsis

Sponsored by the Western SARE, the Northeast Elko Conservation District, the University of Nevada, Reno Extension, and Cottonwood Ranch, this workshop will focus on State and Transition Models in Nevada and how they are associated with Major Land Resource Areas and Ecological Site Descriptions.

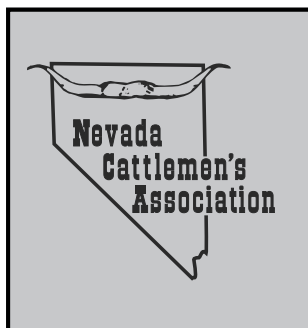
Students will be educated on how these models work and how they can be practically applied to land management strategies, including how they are grouped into Disturbance Response Groups for larger scale systems. This class, facilitated by Dr. Tamzen Stringham, will include a combination of classroom and outdoor field sessions. Times are TBD.

Attendance and Lodging

Attendance is free. Lodging is available at Cottonwood

Ranch: single (\$180 per night); double (\$80 per night); RV spots (\$55 per night), and meals (\$50 per day)

To register or for more information, please contact Vicki Smith by phone: (775)-472-0222 or e mail: vckasmith@gmail.com



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Jon Griggs, President | Hanes Holman, Pres.-Elect | Dave Baker, 1st Vice Pres.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

2022 Public Lands Council Annual Meeting

— August 24-26, 2022 —

Cody, WY

<https://publiclandscouncil.org/>

State and Transition Model Workshop

— September 14-15, 2022 —

Cottonwood Ranch, Wells, Nevada

Register by calling Vicki Smith at

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by email at vckasmith@gmail.com

Nevada Cattlemen's Association Annual Convention

— November 30-December 2, 2022 —

Nugget Casino Resort

100 Nugget Ave, Sparks, NV

www.nevadacattlemen.org

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

We would like to thank the following people for joining or renewing their membership with

Nevada Cattlemen's Association between June 25, and July 25, 2022.

(New members are in bold.)

- Amador Angus, Ed or Joshua Angus
- **Anthony Barnes**
- Hanes Holman
- Schroeder Law Offices P. C., Therese Ure

Moving Forward on Farm Bill Priorities

By Don Schiefelbein, NCBA President



It was great to see so many of you in Reno, Nevada, at NCBA's Summer Business Meeting. Together, the Summer Business Meeting and our annual convention form the bedrock of our grassroots policy process. In my family operation, just like within NCBA, we have our fair share of opinions, but at the end of the day, we stand united for our industry.

Leaving Reno, I'm excited to turn our attention to the next big issue for our industry — the 2023 Farm Bill. Authorized every five years, the Farm Bill is the largest piece of legislation impacting all of agriculture. For the cattle industry, the Farm

Bill presents an opportunity to invest in animal health, risk management, disaster programs and voluntary conservation programs. With Congress likely to be wary of increasing the overall Farm Bill price tag, we will need to advocate for every dollar that goes into programs that benefit cattle producers and provide protections for our industry.

In the 2018 Farm Bill, NCBA secured authorization and funding for the National Animal Vaccine and Veterinary Countermeasures Bank, which currently houses Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) vaccine to protect the U.S. herd against an FMD outbreak. The 2018 Farm Bill also saw a strengthening of voluntary con-

servation programs like the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQUIP). EQUIP provides financial support for producers who wish to voluntarily implement conservation practices, like cover crops, prescribed grazing, irrigation and more. This program is extremely beneficial and keeping it voluntary prevents the government from mandating production methods in the name of conservation.

Programs like the Pasture, Rangeland and Forage program (PRF) or the Livestock Risk Protection program (LRP) allow producers to manage risk through multiple programs. In the past few years, these programs have been improved in different ways and become a way to hedge risk against natural disasters, weather and market conditions. PRF allows producers to insure against poor forage conditions or limited feed while LRP provides insurance against a drop in cattle market prices. Once-in-a-lifetime market conditions like the COVID-19 pandemic illustrated the continued need for risk management, and NCBA will continue advocating for these helpful programs in the next Farm Bill.

When managing risk is not enough, disaster relief programs provide a way for producers to return to as much normalcy in operations as possible. The Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees and Farm-raised Fish program (ELAP) covers losses caused by drought, wildlife, blizzards, disease or high heat. The Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP) helps producers recover from attacks by animals like wolves or adverse weather, and the Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) assists when drought or fire makes grazing impossible.

I know this is a long list of programs and acronyms, but producers across the

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NCBA NEWS

country have benefited from these resources. Since the start of this year, we've seen extreme blizzards, record heat, drought and wildlife attacks, to name just a few of the many challenges facing cattle producers. When we advocate for these programs in the next Farm Bill, acknowledging their impact on producers like you and me will be crucial.

Already, the House Agriculture Committee has held listening sessions and even opened a portal for public comment on Farm Bill programs. This is where your voice matters. Members of Congress need to hear directly from cattle producers who have used these programs and have suggestions on how to improve them. Now is the time to step up and share your thoughts. I encourage you to get in touch with NCBA to share your story on how these programs helped you and how they can be made even better. As an organization of grassroots cattle producers, your voice is what makes all the difference. Thank you for placing your trust in this association and for being a member of NCBA.

In watching activist groups work in D.C., I know that part of their strategy is to divide industries in order to get them to fight each other. While these intra-industry fights are going on, attention is diverted from the activist efforts to weaken the targeted industry. Public Justice does not care about the Checkoff, but given the backgrounds of their staff and connections to animal activists, you can bet that doing whatever it takes to weaken the cattle industry is an opportunity they will not pass up. The Checkoff belongs to you. Yes, there are disagreements about the program, but the last thing we should tolerate is allowing a group purporting to represent cattle producers bring activists into the discussion. As I write this, Public Justice is representing R-CALF in yet another lawsuit against USDA trying to dismantle the Checkoff. I'll keep you posted.



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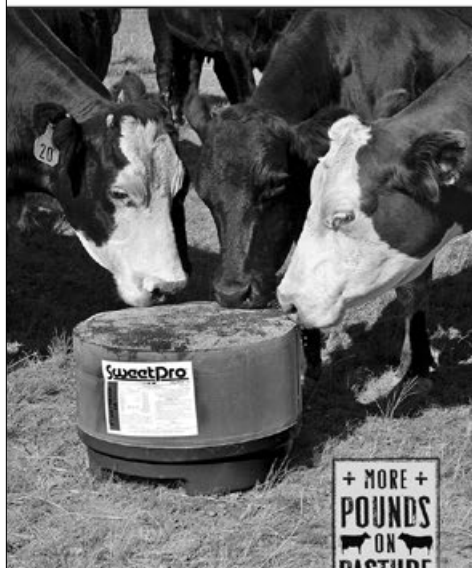
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BEEF CHECKOFF

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BEEF PRICES & INFLATION



With summer grilling season in full swing, consumer concerns about inflation were seen in top-tier media this month.¹



Major outlets like Yahoo! News and TODAY covered the topic. Some discussed whether consumers would switch to other animal proteins.¹



GOOD NEWS FOR BEEF

Consumers still found new ways to enjoy beef without breaking the bank, such as buying in bulk and cooking for leftovers.¹

COOKING & EATING BEEF



Cooking and eating beef was the top beef topic this month, reaching consumers nearly 490 billion times.¹



Outlets like TODAY, ABC News and Mashed shared beef recipes for consumers to enjoy.¹



GOOD NEWS FOR BEEF

Major outlets shared *Beef. It's What's For Dinner.*, funded by the Beef Checkoff, recipes.¹

PLANT-BASED DIETS & ALTERNATIVES



Plant-based diets were included in 33% more stories this month, including several new meat alternative announcements.¹



Beyond Meat announced a new whole-cut meat alternative product, and Juicy Marbles teased an upcoming tenderloin plant-based alternative product.¹



GOOD NEWS FOR BEEF

Despite the new product releases, media reported that some meat alternative sales were lower than predicted.¹

BEEF

#071122.10

1. National Cattlemen's Beef Association. (2022). *Traditional and social media listening dashboards*. Retrieved from Meltwater: www.meltwater.com

Funded by Beef Farmers and Ranchers

USDA Forest Service Issues Rangeland Management Rule Change for Unauthorized or Excess Grazing

The USDA Forest Service issued a rule change to 36 CFR 222.50(h) that harmonizes Forest Service policy with that of the Department of Interior and allows for greater flexibility in handling cases of unauthorized or excess livestock grazing on national forests and grasslands. The final rule will be implemented 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

The final rule allows Forest Service land managers — under limited circumstances — the option to waive excess and unauthorized use fees for grazing permittees when the use occurs because of unforeseen or uncontrollable circumstances. The change enables the agency to take a commonsense approach to resolving certain instances of excess and unauthorized use which will help to maintain relationships and ensure grazing on national forests and grasslands is carried out sustainably.

“Livestock managers and ranchers work alongside the Forest Service and are valuable contributors to conserving open spaces and ensuring that forest and grassland resources are managed sustainably,” said USDA Forest Service Chief Randy Moore. “These changes provide the agency the needed flexibility to take into account the honest efforts of ranchers who do their best to uphold their responsibilities on grazing lands.”

The revisions align Forest Service regulations with the Department of the Interior’s Bureau of Land Management, and follow the recommendations laid out in the 2016 Government Accountability Report, “Unauthorized Grazing: Actions Needed to Improve Tracking and Deterrence Efforts.”

Responsible grazing is an important conservation tool and the Forest Service administers more than six thousand active permits for livestock grazing on national forests and grasslands. These lands supply a vital source of forage for domestic livestock, especially in the western United States where ranching is a critical part of the economy, a way of life for rural communities, and important for the domestic food supply. The final rule change is intended to support responsible livestock management while also deterring unauthorized use in a way that is consistent with other public land management agencies.

The final rule can be found in the Federal Register at <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/06/09/2022-12453/assessing-fees-for-excess-and-unauthorized-grazing>.

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The Public Lands Council President's Publication

by PLC President, Niels Hansen



As my term as president nears its end and I reflect on the wide range of industry issues of the last two years, one fact repeatedly is proven true: in order to achieve our goals we must find common ground and find a way to work as a team towards our end goal. To come together as an industry to debate an issue and argue for your position is absolutely necessary, but in order to convince the decision makers that they should adopt our position, we must stand together and speak with one voice.

It's high energy political climate. Every day, we see individuals who are determined to carry their position forward, people who are so determined to be right, rather than make a difference. Too often this results in creating a divide in the industry that take valuable time to fix. These divides often take time and attention away from the bigger picture, resulting in the loss of an opportunity to move our issues forward. Sometimes, especially in the most challenging of times, it feels like we take one step forward and three steps backward. Every week, there's a new

challenge brought forward by someone who wants to change the way our system works, the way we produce energy, and even the way we feed ourselves. As an industry, we rise to meet those challenges every time, but we always have to keep the bigger picture directly ahead. Our goal: to make sure that we protect this way of life so that we can share the blessings we have enjoyed with our children and grandchildren.

Tensions run high when things are hot and dry, but we can't lose sight of the progress we've made. In

the last two years alone, we have seen an onslaught of bad policy proposals, regulatory uncertainty, and daily threats to our operations. But we've also seen more people caring about what we do and how we do business. People from the cities are starting to realize that all of the things they value are the things we protect daily. The future we want to share with the next generation depends on us finding a way to work as a team with people who are surprising allies.

As I look ahead, I see more challenges coming down the line. Court cases, divided politics, and even challenges from Mother Nature will continue to test us. There is no silver bullet that will fix all of the ills of the day, because the complex challenges before us will require complex solutions. My advice: if you think you see a silver bullet, think twice. As you face a challenge, remember that you don't have to face it alone.

PLC will continue to work for all those who hold federal grazing permits, defending the way of life, and making sure that solutions to the problems we face are time tested and industry-advancing.

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From The Desk of the PLC Executive Director

By Kaitlynn Glover, Executive Director, Public Lands Council

As temperatures rise in Washington, so do tensions around government spending and legislative priorities. This year those tensions are magnified by increasingly divisive partisan posturing around the midterms which has diverted attention from many of the typical legislative priorities.

The exception, however, is the litany of land-related bills that affect your daily operations. In the last month alone, PLC successfully worked to prevent bills like the ill-conceived Wildlife-Livestock Conflict Resolution Act from garnering

enough votes to move out of committee, sending a signal that partisan efforts to remove grazing from federal lands are not welcome. PLC also supported successful efforts like Senator Daines' Cottonwood fix that advanced out of Committee with unanimous support, making clear that our long-term efforts to improve forest management and reduce fire risk are gaining traction. PLC's engagement, and our affiliates' leadership, makes a difference every single day on Capitol Hill. As we look to the months ahead, that leadership is going to become even more critical, as the midterms loom large over the country.

As I've attended affiliate meetings this summer, I've heard the same refrain from Arizona to Idaho: we're dealing with the same issues over and over again, and sometimes, it's tiring. Much of the policy work in Washington feels a bit like a political merry-go-round, where agency priorities and Congressional focus wax and wane in 2-, 4-, or 6- year cycles. The same could be said for livestock production: the issues we face today are the same our ancestors faced 100 years ago.

I can only hope we are so lucky to face the same issues in the next 100 years, because that will mean that our efforts to show the public – the world – that grazing is good will have been successful. We see the tide turning every day: from the urbanites reveling over the sheep and goats protecting their cul-de-sac from the next big fire to the decisive preference Americans have for domestic lamb, beef, and wool. We must continue to double down, invest in that success, even through the onslaught of political change, regulatory whiplash, and a fickle mother nature.

Temperatures and tensions are high, but so is our energy. Tell your neighbor. Tell your friend. Bring them to a meeting. Join us in Cody.



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Public Lands Council Policy Spotlight

by Sigrid Johannes, Associate Director, Federal Lands, Public Lands Council

Rulemakings to change ESA regulations have been taking all the oxygen out of the natural resources room for several weeks now. But the Biden administration recently opened up another proposed rulemaking that could impact permittees, and we don't want it to escape your notice.

As many of you know all too well, wild horse and burro populations West-wide are an ecological and multiple use crisis. When left unmanaged, wild horse herds grow exponentially – doubling in size every four years. Today, there are approximately 82,000 animals on public lands despite the BLM's assessment that the Appropriate Management Level (AML) is 26,700. This overpopulation of horses has resulted in catastrophic conditions for natural resources, wildlife, and livestock alike. Rangelands have been degraded by overgrazing. Other species suffer as horses aggressively outcompete them for scarce water resources. For the horses themselves, these conditions can lead to death by starvation, dehydration, or conflict with other animals.

So, how do we reduce the number of horses on the range and address this crisis? Gathers and removals are critical, as well as a rigorous adoption process. Fertility control is also a vital piece of the puzzle, but current treatments require multiple doses. Once a mare has been captured once, it's harder – and riskier – to try to wrangle her again. More horses slip through the cracks and end up bred. The BLM has recognized the need for effective, long-lasting fertility control and is now devoting resources to the development of new options. A comment period is now open on the BLM's proposed research plan to examine the effectiveness of

long-term vaccines and test specialized intrauterine devices (IUDs). PLC strongly supports a comprehensive approach that includes an all-of-the-above approach: nonlethal control methods and long-term doses – in addition to an aggressive schedule of gathers and removals – are an important tool to pursue. If you would like to comment, we encourage you to do so by the deadline on August 22 using this link- <https://publiclandscouncil.org/commentperiods/>.

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