



**Topic:** Update of the Rangeland Management Manual and Handbooks

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**Issue Summary:** The Forest Service is proposing to revise Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2200, Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2209.13 and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2209.16. These directives guide the agency's grazing permit administration and grazing allotment management and have not been updated since the early 1990's. Over the last 30 years, legislation and court decisions have changed rangeland management regulations, policies, and procedures. A total of 17 chapters are being updated or removed and those chapters reserved. See appendix A for a list of the chapters.

**Key Points:**

- Efforts to update the rangeland management directives were made in 2005 and issued as interim directives but were rescinded and not implemented.
- Updates are needed to modernize the directives and address evolving issues related to:
  - Qualifications for entities to hold grazing permits;
  - Livestock industry's desires to keep successive generations in business;
  - The Forest Service's need to maintain open space and keep sustainable livestock operations on the landscape while meeting the demands of multiple uses and values (e.g., livestock, wildlife habitat, recreation, etc.).
- Updates required to comply with the policies for assessing excess and unauthorized use fees, as recommended by the 2016 Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report to the Committee on Natural Resources, House of Representatives for *Unauthorized Grazing, Actions Needed to Improve Tracking and Deterrence Efforts* (GAO-16-559).
  - Updates have been made in the proposed directives that respond to the GAO's recommendation to adopt an unauthorized grazing penalty structure that is based on the current commercial value of forage.
  - Updates related to options for nonmonetary settlement when the unauthorized or excess grazing is non-willful will be included after the Excess Use Final Rule is completed.
- Updates provide clarification and guidance regarding grazing of livestock on National Forest System lands by Indian tribes exercising their Treaty Rights. Explains this government-to-government relationship is unique, and distinct from other interests and constituencies served by the Agency.
- Updates include specific exceptions for the Dakota Prairie Grasslands. The exceptions are tied to the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 (PL 110-161), Division F, Title IV, SEC. 425, which states: "In fiscal year 2008 and thereafter, the Forest Service shall not change the eligibility requirements for base property, and livestock ownership as they relate to leasing of base property and shared livestock agreements for grazing permits on the Dakota Prairie Grasslands that were in effect as of July 18, 2005."





## Appendix A – Rangeland Management Directives

The following are the rangeland management directives that are being updated at this time:

### FSM 2200 – RANGELAND MANAGEMENT MANUAL

- Chapter Zero Code
- Chapter 2210 – Rangeland Management Planning
- Chapter 2220 – Management of Ranges (Reserved)
- Chapter 2230 – Grazing Permit System
- Chapter 2240 – Rangeland Improvements
- Chapter 2250 – Rangeland Management Cooperation
- Chapter 2270 – Information Management and Reports

### FSH 2209.13 – GRAZING PERMIT ADMINISTRATION HANDBOOK

- Chapter 10 – Term Grazing Permits
- Chapter 20 – Grazing Agreements
- Chapter 30 – Temporary Grazing and Livestock Use Permits
- Chapter 40 – Livestock Use Permits (Reserved)
- Chapter 50 – Tribal Treaty Authorizations and Special Use Permits
- Chapter 60 – Records
- Chapter 70 – Compensation for Permittee Interest in Range Improvements
- Chapter 80 – Grazing Fees
- Chapter 90 – Rangeland Management Decision Making

### FSH 2209.16 – ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT HANDBOOK

- Chapter 10 – Allotment Management and Administration

