



Public Lands Council

2009 Policy

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Property-Related

PLC-100
2007

ALLOCATION OF AVAILABLE AUMs

WHEREAS, a preference status for current permittees on public lands is desirable and necessary for continued operation of ranch business,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges the Forest Service and the BLM to give first preference for permits and leases to present or neighboring permittees rather than entities that have no water or land base property or year- round operation.

PLC-101
2007

REISSUANCE OF GRAZING PREFERENCE

WHEREAS, PLC is aware that on certain Forest and BLM allotments that the surrender of grazing preferences by the permittee has resulted in the exclusion of livestock usage from substantial areas in western states in violation of multiple use principles,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC demands the reissuance of these grazing preferences in accordance with Forest Service and BLM regulations to qualified permittees.

PLC-102
2007

CHANGES IN AREA OF USE

WHEREAS, there is a concerted effort by BLM and permittees to improve the range resource; and

WHEREAS, efforts are being made to improve relations between governmental agencies and re-establish trust and confidence in the BLM and Forest Service; and

WHEREAS, isolated instances of transfers of grazing rights have been made from one established area of use to another area of established use and other transfers are being contemplated; and

WHEREAS, the discussions are generating a degree of mistrust and reluctance of permittees to develop and manage the range resource to its maximum potential,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes the transfer of AUMs from one area of established use to another area of established use without close consultation with, and approval of, the permittees involved.

PLC-103
2007

UNWILLFUL TRESPASS

WHEREAS, many range boundaries are presently unfenced and fences/gates are often opened by persons other than grazing permittees; and,

WHEREAS, timely control of livestock may be hampered, resulting in unwilling trespass

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that nonmonetary settlement in lieu of trespass fees should be an option in instances where unauthorized use occurred through no fault of the livestock operator.

PLC-104
2008

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

BE IT RESOLVED, that when public funds are not available from the U.S. Forest Service or the Bureau of Land Management for range improvements and the permittee is willing to totally or partially fund the cost of an authorized improvement, such improvement becomes the property of the permittee and such improvement, so privately constructed and owned, may add to the local tax base.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that regulatory changes be made to permit an expedited and prioritized procedure for implementation of privately funded improvements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that records be kept of private improvements, and that permittee's financial contribution be recognized.

PLC-105
2007

FEDERAL GRAZING PERMIT VALUES

WHEREAS, the Internal Revenue Service has consistently recognized the value of the federal grazing permit for purposes of estate taxation and capital gains rates; and

WHEREAS, any appraisal of a federal lands ranching operation considers the value of the federal grazing permit; and

WHEREAS, the value of the federal grazing permit is an integral component of any negotiations for the sale, purchase, or lease of a federal lands ranch, or lending activity related thereto; and

WHEREAS, the collateral in ranch loan portfolios of many western lending institutions is partially comprised of the values allocated to federal grazing permits; and

WHEREAS, the 1993 Bureau of Land Management's Incentive Based Grazing Fee Report stresses how critical the permit value is to the cost of acquiring a federal lands ranching operation; and

WHEREAS, federal lands management agencies persistently disregard the cost of acquiring federal grazing permits, and disregard the recognition given to the permit by the Internal Revenue Service, lending agencies and professional rural appraiser;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC aggressively pursue a resolution of the current discrepancy between federal land management agencies and the Internal Revenue Service on the treatment of federal grazing permit values; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the policies of the federal agencies become consistent regarding federal grazing permit values; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in the cases of permitted livestock numbers being reduced, permits being taken by a federal agency, or permits being subsequently issued to a different party, that the permittee

1. Be commensurately compensated for loss of AUMS at the same values as the Internal Revenue Service has determined, or
2. Be allowed by the Internal Revenue Service to use the loss as a capital loss at the time the cut is implemented, or
3. Receive fair market value from the agencies for cuts in AUMS not related to range conditions.

PLC-106
2007

LEASING FOREST SERVICE GRAZING PERMITS

WHEREAS, current Forest Service policy inadvertently restricts continuity of ownership of ranching operations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges the Forest Service to allow the leasing of grazing permits when the base property is leased by an individual if such lease is within local permit limits and/or Association policy.

PLC-107
2007

WILDLIFE REFUGE GRAZING PERMIT TRANSFERS

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service policies regarding grazing on some national wildlife refuges provide that the heirs of a grazing permit holder must make an application for grazing privileges and would be treated as a new applicant in accordance with permittee selection procedures; and

WHEREAS, these same policies provide that refuge grazing permits shall be canceled when there is a change in a ranch ownership regardless of the ranch's past history of use of refuge grazing; and

WHEREAS, such policies unnecessarily add to the instability of those livestock operations which involve grazing on national wildlife refuges while at the same time such policies do not add any protection that is necessary to the wildlife objective of the refuges,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the U.S. Department of the Interior be encouraged to change this policy to allow heirs or new ranch owners to continue grazing privileges under the permit and to be able to assume that permit and its prior terms.

PLC-108
2008

LAND DISPOSAL

WHEREAS, certain lands were designated as submarginal for intensive agriculture, were acquired by the federal government, and were administered by the SCS as land utilization projects prior to 1953; and

WHEREAS, there is nothing that distinguishes these lands from adjoining private agricultural lands,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that these lands, currently administered by the United States Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, be placed on a priority list for disposal.

PLC-109
2007

LAND SALES AND EXCHANGES

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC encourages an accelerated process of exchange or direct sale of tracts of public lands to adjacent landowners, recognizing the historic use of the land for purposes of valuation, to provide for more realistic and economic management of land resources for increasing revenues to the economic bases of the local areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the public agencies should pay a fair share of the costs involved in an exchange or sale not associated with private sales and exchanges.

PLC-110
2007

PUBLIC ACQUISITION OF PRIVATE LANDS AND PERMITS

WHEREAS, the decline in the use of natural resources for production is an area of great concern for the nation and

WHEREAS, the sale of private land or permits that result in non-production by the natural resources is an action that neither our nation nor the world can afford,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC insists upon the following:

1. That the process of removal of natural resource production which is now occurring be stopped.
2. If it becomes necessary to remove any permits or base property from production due to urban expansion or environmental needs then its production must be replaced by other public or private land which is now removed from production of its natural resources, but which could be put back into production.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC insists that there be no net loss of private lands and the public interest cannot abide a further erosion of commercial production of our natural resources.

PLC-111
2007

INTERMINGLED LANDS

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management has ignored the intermingled land status of the public land allotments in the West; and

WHEREAS, the public has not been informed of the facts of the land situation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC go on record as recommending that the Secretary of the Interior change BLM policy to reflect a new direction of educating the public, and that the Secretary direct all planning proposals be coordinated with state, county, and private property interests.

PLC-112
2007

PROPERTY TAKINGS

WHEREAS, government agencies are encroaching on private property rights through various actions,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that any government agency involved in any such action be required to do a Takings Implication Assessment (TIA) as required by Presidential Executive Order #12630 prior to proceeding with such action.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports legislation enacting Executive Order #12630 into law.

PLC-113
2007

STATE WATER RIGHTS

WHEREAS, waters are vitally important to each state in the development of natural resources; and

WHEREAS, the governmental entities are attempting to gain control of certain waters belonging to the states,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC strenuously opposes any federal legislation or any action by a federal agency that would diminish, alter use, or transfer any water on federal lands without just compensation to the holder of such water rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC protests any governmental entity takeover of state waters and insists that federal agencies acquire water rights in conformance with individual state statutes and water law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC does not recognize any federal claim to waters or restriction of movement of those waters which have historically and lawfully been developed, used, stored and/or transported on or across federal lands when such waters are protected by state water rights.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes any legislation establishing wilderness area which does not incorporate specific language requiring that any use of water or reservation of water for wilderness must be accomplished under the appropriate state water law.

PLC-114
2007

STATES' RIGHTS

WHEREAS, many federal regulations erode states rights; and
WHEREAS, PLC supports states rights;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC recommends that states review and consider those states rights issues and take an active role in working with their state governments to assert those rights.

PLC-115
2007

LOCAL PARTICIPATION IN FIRE FIGHTING

WHEREAS, in recent years fire has increased in frequency, intensity, and size.
THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, PLC coordinates efforts with the federal land management agencies to recognize rural, volunteer, and other local fire departments as the first line of defense for fire suppression.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, these agencies provide training and equipment needs to local fire departments to ensure fires are aggressively fought during initial attack and transition periods.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that land maps be prepared to show areas that will allow immediate suppression efforts, including use of heavy equipment, to be initiated.

PLC-116
2007

COMMUNICATING LET BURN AREAS

WHEREAS, certain areas have been designated as let burn areas,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that these areas boundaries be communicated to local suppression agencies.

PLC-117
2007

PROTECTION OF BASE PROPERTY

WHEREAS, public land livestock producers in the West own more than 100 million acres of private land that serves as base property for federal land grazing permits;
WHEREAS, public land livestock producers face an increasing number of social threats that undermine their ability to maintain their operations on federal lands;
WHEREAS, the voluntary sale or donation of conservation easements is consistent with private property rights;

WHEREAS, conservation easements can be a valuable tool in many property owners' financial plans which can significantly affect income taxes, property taxes and income flow, thereby easing the task of transferring land to younger generations,

WHEREAS, permanent easements unfairly limit the options of future generations both financially and to deal with resource conditions that may exist at that time;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports voluntary term conservation easements that protect agricultural land, and other non-easement measures that enhance the ability of public land livestock producers in the West to maintain their operations.

PLC-118
2009 (New)

CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

WHEREAS, conservation easements are a valuable tool for estate planning and allow tax benefits to the donor of the easement, and

WHEREAS, the availability of conservation easements may help keep agriculture communities and ranches intact, and make it more possible for young people to enter the business;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports legislation to provide tax incentives to ranchers to create conservation easements;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC encourages interested landowners to become knowledgeable of their rights under the uniform conservation easement act before entering into a conservation easement.

PLC-119
2009 (New)

TRANSFER OF WATER

WHEREAS, water is critical to ranches, wildlife and all activity in the rural west,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes transfers of water that harm ranching; wildlife and rural activities and that are opposed by state affiliates.

PLC-120
2009 (New)

TERM CONSERVATION EASEMENTS

WEHREAS, there are a number of ranchers in the West that would like to directly participate in conservation efforts in addition to what they now contribute to the health of the land for the benefit of all uses, and

WHEREAS some of these ranchers would prefer to not participate in permanent conservation easements,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC take an active role in securing comparable tax benefits for term conservation easements.

Agency Policy

PLC-200
2007

ANIMAL UNIT MONTHS

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests the various land management agencies to adopt a uniform definition of the term AUM that is based on sound science, as used for establishing or defining preference rights and carrying capacities, and for billing purposes.

PLC-201
2008

BASE STOCKING RATES

WHEREAS, the BLM is using an average of three to five years of active AUM use to establish base stocking rates; and

WHEREAS, these regulations will unfairly discriminate against operators who have willingly reduced numbers in an effort to encourage more rapid improvement of range resources, or who have had to reduce numbers because of financial reasons they could not control, or who may have lost available forage due to fire or other acts of nature; or interim management actions; and

WHEREAS, monitoring of range trends over a period of years to determine range condition is the most reliable means by which to establish proper stocking rates,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes the use of average active use to establish base stocking rates.

PLC-202
2007

BILLING PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC GRAZING

WHEREAS, livestock lessees and permittees are billed for grazing use after- the-fact in some cases and before-the-fact in other cases; and

WHEREAS, this differential treatment is discriminatory and unfair to some permittees and lessees,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests that all billing, whether quarterly, semiannually, or annually, be after-the-fact so as to put all permittees and lessees on an equal basis and to comply with the actual use requirements.

PLC-203
2008

BLM AFFECTED INTEREST AND INTERESTED PARTIES

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management policy has been interpreted to allow parties with no monetary consideration equal status with parties bound by contractual relationship; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC pursue BLM reassessment of their policies regarding the definition of "affected interest," "interested parties" or other non-contractual interests, placing weight on the special status of contractual relationships.

PLC-204
2007

DAMAGES FROM ENERGY AND MINERALS

WHEREAS, livestock producers operating on the public lands may be affected by the expansion of oil, gas, and mineral industries; and

WHEREAS, energy and mineral development may cause direct economic disruptions in some ongoing livestock operations; and

WHEREAS, damage to the surface of public lands is minimal compared to the actual damage to livestock operations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service to require all energy-related and mining companies to coordinate any activities on public lands with grazing permittees and lessees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Land Management enforce Subpart 3418, of Title 43, of the Code of Federal Regulations relating to federal minerals on private lands.

PLC-205
2009

8100 FUNDS

BE IT RESOLVED, that 8100 fund monies not be used for administrative purposes.

PLC-206
2009

ECONOMIC EFFICIENCIES OF RANGELAND GRAZING

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests the federal agencies and the Office of Management and Budget to reassess their methods of measuring the economics of public range livestock grazing so as to properly account for all the direct and indirect public benefits of livestock grazing, including wildlife, production of red meat and fiber, lower energy and water use and contributions to local economies.

PLC-207
2008

SUBLEASING

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC is opposed to subleasing as defined in BLM regulations in 43 CFR, Part 4100, effective January 1, 1995.

PLC-208
2008 (Renewed for one year)

LIVESTOCK MANAGEMENT CONTRACTS

BE IT RESOLVED, all livestock management contracts permissible under BLM regulations in 43 CFR, Part 4100, effective January 1, 1995, should be allowed on both Forest Service and BLM lands and billed at the regular rate.

PLC-209
2007

FIRE CONTROL

WHEREAS, many western states continue to be in an extreme fire danger situation; and

WHEREAS, legitimate concerns exist over adequate management, both before and after a wild fire, of the resources including forage, watershed, timber, wildlife habitat, fisheries, etc.; and

WHEREAS, proper livestock grazing management practices will minimize the initial risk of fire; and

WHEREAS, livestock grazing is an effective means to manage forage regrowth in areas that have burned,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the appropriate state and federal agencies charged with managing public lands make effective use of livestock in: (1) reducing fuel load from forage and brush growth to minimize fire danger, and (2) enhancing regrowth of forage and timber in burned areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC urges the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to initiate planned programs of "prescribed burning" in order to reduce the wildfire potential and to increase forage and water resources.

PLC-210
2007

REFUGE GRAZING PLAN DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, livestock grazing is a useful tool used by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in the effective management of refuge lands and has proven in many cases to be beneficial to wildlife habitat,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to accord their permittees the same careful and considered consultation, cooperation and

coordination in developing grazing plans and a similar fee structure for each refuge that is enjoyed by the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service grazing permittee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes any legislation or governmental policies that would class livestock grazing as an incompatible use on wildlife refuges.

PLC-211
2007

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE NON-USE

WHEREAS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service grazing regulations require that non-use of a permit, in whole or in part, shall be cause for cancellation of a permittee's privilege at the discretion of the refuge manager; and

WHEREAS, this requirement is causing management problems and some hardship for livestock operators,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC seeks changes in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service non-use regulations that would coincide with the BLM non-use policies.

PLC-212
2007

NON-USE

WHEREAS, there are many allotments in non-use for various reasons; and

WHEREAS, the three year limitation on total non-use is accepted by the livestock industry; and

WHEREAS, many of these allotments are activated by a one-year, non-renewable status,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that if a permittee is willing to let his allotment be used by another on a one-year, non-renewable status, the permittee can be credited for use of that year. Such use would reserve the active status of the permit for the permit holder

PLC-213
2007

LAND MANAGEMENT AGENCIES' RANGE BUDGET

WHEREAS, the federal land management agencies have not scientifically monitored in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, decisions by those agencies are required to have data to support them; and

WHEREAS those decisions are currently often being made with only ocular estimates and subjective determinations,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC fully supports the addition of a line item in the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management budgets that is only for scientific, vegetative trend monitoring; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that decisions to decrease livestock numbers must meet the statutory requirement of valid supporting data.

PLC-214
2007

GRAZING EIS'S

WHEREAS, the grazing Environmental Impact Statements (EIS's) were not intended to be decision documents but represent only a collection of data, at one point in time,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests that monitoring of range trend including precipitation forage production, and utilization over time, rather than one-time forage inventories or average annual grazing use, be the basis for federal range management decisions including forage allocations and determination of stocking rates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes the use of computerized forage allocations and any range evaluation system using strict percentage of utilization figures.

PLC-215
2007

GRAZING LEVELS

WHEREAS, the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service are increasingly basing proper grazing level determinations solely on percentage of utilization of riparian areas and key species utilization,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the land managing agencies use the accepted recognized grazing practices plus scientific data available to them from their own and other research which should include wildlife and/or wild horse and burro utilization and range trends prior to livestock use when setting grazing level criteria for allotments.

PLC-216
2008

QUALIFICATIONS OF AGENCY PERSONNEL

WHEREAS, federal land management agencies are shifting the emphasis of their land administration programs away from administering rangeland management practices and principles, and placing much more emphasis on the protection of ecological functions, wildlife habitat, and recreational management, the affect of which reduces opportunities for continued improvement in rangeland livestock management.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the educational requirements for federal land management agency personnel responsible for rangeland management and conservation programs be extended beyond their formal academic training. Agency personnel should be required to update their training in range management principles and practices through an accredited range sciences program every five (5) years. The hiring, upgrading and promotion of range technicians and conservationists be based on the formal range management education, and professional training and experience. Such education, training and experience, should include course working the area of animal

science, to compliment those courses founded in ecology, plant identification, plant physiology and range management, soils and wildlife management.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all range management and conservation decisions be made with only with adequate consideration by professional range management personnel.

PLC-217
2007

RIPARIAN AREAS

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC work toward the adoption by the agencies of the various state and federal governments of a uniform definition of a "riparian area", excluding from that definition any areas created or enhanced by water or spring development.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes proposals of the federal land management agencies for mandatory fencing riparian areas along streams or springs on the public lands except where:

- 1) Alternate sources of livestock water are identified, satisfactorily developed, and made available for livestock use; and
- 2) Privately owned state water rights in federal riparian areas are fully recognized and protected, including the right of access across federal lands to those waters and use thereof; and
- 3) The proposed sites are studied in full cooperation, coordination, and consultation with the livestock operator and, where appropriate, the local district grazing advisory board and/or grazing associations,
- 4) A comprehensive cooperative agreement, including a termination date, adequate monitoring provisions, and an assignment of construction and maintenance responsibilities to the benefiting function, is voluntarily entered into between the agency and the livestock operator.

PLC-218
2007

VANDALISM ON PUBLIC LANDS

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service to utilize education and local law enforcement efforts to discourage and curtail vandalism on the public lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service be responsible for repairing damage to improvements and vegetation on public rangelands caused by vandalism and carelessness on the part of other users, and diligently work with local and state law enforcement personnel to identify and charge the parties responsible for such damage.

PLC-219
2007

WILDLIFE FORAGE ALLOCATION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service, in performance of their missions and operations under the concept of balanced multiple use, consider the following as requisite to approval of additional wildlife demands on public rangelands:

1. Mandatory consultation and cooperation between public land managers and domestic livestock users as well as others concerned;
2. Evidence, supported by monitoring studies, of sufficient habitat and excess forage over and above present use of the forage resource;
3. A projection of geographic areas into which new animals will stray;
4. After all preference of record is satisfied, a maximum number for additional animals by species, and controls to hold the growth within these limits, or to reduce these numbers if resource conditions so dictate;
5. Adequate state programs to prevent the transfer of disease to domestic animals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that forage resources determined to be in excess of current demands be offered for use, if and where appropriate, to all consumptive users.

PLC-220
2008

RECREATIONAL OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, recreational OHVs may cause considerable damage to resources on public lands, and

WHEREAS, public land managing agencies have inadequately regulated and enforced rules concerning recreational OHV use on public lands, and

WHEREAS, ranchers rely on the ability to use OHVs for managing livestock.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC encourages the BLM and USFS to develop and enforce plans for recreational OHV use that balance all multiple uses of the land and give extra consideration to grazing operations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC urges the BLM and USFS to maintain the permittees' ability to make administrative use of OHVs for purposes related to grazing permits.

PLC-221
2007

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior clearly has established a double standard for resource conditions and management on federal lands, one for livestock grazing on multiple use lands, and a different standard for wildlife grazing within any National Park and other lands within the National Park System; and

WHEREAS, that impact of overgrazing by wildlife or livestock on natural resources is not significantly different,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC encourages and supports an independent scientific review and interpretation of the resource management policies and practices of the National Park Service within any National Park, and the effect these policies and practices have on the ecological resources within the National Park System and surrounding lands.

PLC-222
2008

FEDERAL LAND EXCHANGES AND SALES

WHEREAS, federal land management agencies have established criteria for the retention, acquisition, and disposal of lands under their administration, and they have selected specific priority areas for the implementation of their land disposition program, based on locally or regionally developed land use planning documents.

WHEREAS, federal grazing permittees are often not aware that specific lands associated with their livestock operations have been identified for disposal, and agency proposals to proceed with the sale or trade of these selected lands often comes with little advanced warning, thus limiting opportunities for livestock operators, and local or state governments to take advantage of, or participate in such proposals.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC support implementation of a new federal land disposal and consolidation process/program that results in better communication of specific program goals and objectives to livestock grazing permittees, local or state governments, and increased opportunities for livestock grazing permittees to participate in the timely and orderly consolidation of land ownership in the western states, with minimal financial and operational impacts to both local and state governments.

PLC-223
2008

PROPER USE OF AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (FLPMA)

WHEREAS, the Federal Land Policy Management Act of 1976 authorizes federal land management agencies to designate Areas of Critical Environmental Concern to protect and prevent irreparable damage to significant natural, cultural, or historical resources. Many designations proposed by the Bureau of Land Management in several western states appear to grossly exceed the ACEC authority granted by FLPMA, and clearly exceed the Congressional intent of the enacting legislation.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC request that federal land management agencies apply the ACEC provisions of FLPMA in strict compliance with the intent of the Act, and make every effort to address environmental or other resource management issues through the existing land use planning processes before enacting the ACEC provisions of FLPMA.

PLC-224
2008

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR WATER DEVELOPMENT POLICY

WHEREAS, the Range Reform 94 regulations, as approved by the Secretary of Interior, require the implementation of strict standards and guidelines for rangeland health on all federal lands, and achieving such standards and guidelines will require the use of many different livestock management strategies and practices, including the opportunity to develop ground and surface water sources for livestock and wildlife use.

WHEREAS, the Department of Interior, through the US Fish and Wildlife Service, has opposed the development of livestock water sources on public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and such livestock water developments are critical management prescriptions to be used in achieving the prescribed standards and guidelines for numerous livestock grazing permits on BLM and state lands.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, The Department of Interior and the US Fish and Wildlife Service allow the state water right development and filing procedures to be properly applied to all livestock water developments on federal, state, or private lands, and withdraw any opposition to the construction of livestock water developments on any federal, state, or private lands, if such development is included under the terms and conditions of any federal or state livestock grazing permit or lease, or if such development is critical to the proper utilization of the forage resources associated with such grazing permits or leases.

PLC-225
2007

MANDATORY COMPLIANCE REPORTING BY PERMITTEES

WHEREAS, voluntary data collection may be beneficial to permittees and federal agencies alike; and

WHEREAS, nonconsensual permit compliance reporting required by federal agencies could be detrimental to the permittees ability to graze t heir allotments; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC encourages voluntary participation in monitoring as agreed upon by permittees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes mandatory compliance reporting by the permittee as a condition of a grazing permit.

PLC-226
2007

MONITORING PROMOTION

WHEREAS, PLC fully supports the report prepared by the PLC/NCBA Monitoring Committee, that provides the basis for identification of research needs and the need for additional efforts to elevate the subject of joint, cooperative field level monitoring to a high priority within our industry and the BLM and USFS; and

WHEREAS, a national strategy from the BLM and USFS that clearly conveys the intent of these Agencies to elevate adequate quantity and quality data using state of the art range science procedures to a high priority within these agencies, and provide adequate funding and range technicians to accomplish this objective, is in the best interest of our members and the agencies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC recommend to all ranchers who hold federal grazing permits or leases that it is in their best interest to participate in joint, cooperative, field level monitoring with their respective agency(s), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC work directly with the leadership of the BLM and USFS to expeditiously develop a national monitoring strategy within each agency that will facilitate and accomplish the goals and objectives set forth in the Monitoring Committee Report.

PLC-227
2007

NOTIFICATION OF PERMITTEES FOR VACANT ALLOTMENTS

WHEREAS, public land grazing allotments periodically become vacant; and,
WHEREAS, improper disposition of vacant allotments may harm the stability of the grazing industry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the federal land management agencies shall notify the local or state livestock organizations when an allotment becomes vacant and on annual basis notify the local organizations of the number and location of vacant allotments in the local area.

PLC-228
2007

CROSS-BOUNDARY ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

WHEREAS, resource issues cross political and administrative boundaries;
WHEREAS, federal agencies rarely produce environmental documentation that tracks the geographic scope of cross-boundary resource issues;

WHEREAS, the failure to produce documentation at the proper geographic scale results in added costs and inefficiencies for the federal government as well as leading to different management regimes for the same resource issues;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC urges federal land managing agencies to produce environmental documentation at the proper geographic scale and where possible to supplement documents necessary to address the adjacent resource areas.

PLC-229
2008

POST-FIRE GRAZING ON FEDERALLY MANAGED LAND

WHEREAS, PLC desires to focus on site specific landscape health goals and,
WHEREAS, range management literature recognizes livestock grazing as a tool to reach these site specific landscape goals,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that agency manuals addressing post-fire grazing policy should:

- 1) Require that decisions be based upon site specific range vegetation goals, and
- 2) design and utilize prescriptive grazing to
 - a) advance progress toward these vegetative goals and
 - b) be applied as locally determined to be appropriate.

PLC-230
2009

PERMIT RENEWALS

WHEREAS, legislation establishing a deadline for eliminating a NEPA compliance and/or permit renewal by the federal land management agencies, BLM and USFS, is at risk for not being met and a significant number of grazing allotments will not have NEPA decisions and/or permit renewals issued before the deadline, potentially closing livestock grazing after the deadline and subjecting the industry to potential litigation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the USFS and BLM allocate appropriate levels of funding to complete the grazing allotment NEPA documents and grazing permit renewals, internally communicate the priority of completing these actions for the affected allotments, and reassign specialists to complete the input required for the permits to ensure that grazing is allowed to continue.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if the legislative deadline cannot be met and allotments are subject to cancellation or litigation, PLC will work with congress to extend the legislative deadline.

PLC-231
2009

90-DAY PETITION FINDING

WHEREAS, the endangered Species Act requires the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National marine Fisheries Service to review a petitioner's claims made in petition with due diligence prior to reaching a 90-day petition find level; and

WHEREAS, the Fish and Wildlife Service has often failed to exercise this legal duty and social responsibility by accepting a petitioner's claims of barriers threats to a species at face value and without duly diligent review at the 90-day petition finding level; and

WHEREAS, such abdication by the Service of authority and responsibility and the 90-day petition finding level is neither lawful not socially acceptable.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Fish and Wildlife Service's duty under regulations governing 90-day petition findings found at 50 CFR Sec. 424.13(b)(2) be clarified by amendment to read as follows:

"In making a finding under paragraph (b)(1) of this section, the Secretary shall conduct diligent review of the petition to determine whether, based solely on the best scientific and commercial information available, the

claims make in such petition accurately represent that information and whether such petition...”

PLC-232
2009

PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER

WHEREAS, livestock grazing has been falsely claimed to be a threat to various species listed under the authority of the federal Endangered Species Act by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

WHEREAS, such identification of livestock grazing as a threat to these various species is typically unsupported or contradicted by the best scientific and commercial information available;

WHEREAS, the false, exaggerated, or misapplied claims of harm to specific species from grazing, written into listing decisions and recovery documents without due evaluation or relevant scientific support, have caused grave economic, social, and cultural harm to ranchers and ranching communities;

WHEREAS, similarly harmful and unsupported claims about other human uses have been written into listing decisions and species recovery documents causing social, economic, and cultural harm to other individuals and communities throughout the West;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC, in alliance with other affected organization and individual, promote the issuance of a Presidential Executive Order requiring that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (when evaluating any threat to a species being considered for listing):

1. Rely upon the best available scientific and commercial information to determine whether any specified human use constitutes a genuine threat to the specific species;
2. Create a written record stating the relevance and reliability of the information used in reaching a determination that any specific class of use constitutes a threat to a particular species and;
3. Affirm that any such determination of harm from any human use is subject to the standards of scientific review in accordance with Daubert and its progeny’s line of U.S. Supreme Court jurisprudence.

PLC-233
2007

USE OF THE BEST SCIENTIFIC AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION

WHEREAS, NEPA requires analysis of the environmental impacts of the exclusion of livestock from along rivers and streams;

WHEREAS, most federal land management agencies are currently not analyzing the environmental impacts of exclusion of livestock from along rivers and streams in contravention of NEPA, and

WHEREAS, well-managed livestock grazing has been shown by the best scientific and commercial information available to have lesser environmental impacts than exclusion of grazing,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC insists that federal resource management agencies analyze each NEPA literature citation, in its entirety, including materials and methods and scope of results when determining both the effects of exclusion of livestock from along rivers and streams and the effects of well-managed livestock grazing in compliance with NEPA.

PLC-234
2007

ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL OFFICER ETHICS

WHEREAS, the Federal ethics and conflict of interest code applies to employees of the U. S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC, on behalf of livestock growers victimized by inappropriate and unethical abuse of federal authority, demand that federal officers recuse themselves from decision making in all circumstances where their personal views or their private advocacy group takes a position on the use they are empowered to regulate.

PLC-235
2007

EMERGENCY CRP USE

WHEREAS, wildfires, floods, droughts, and other natural disasters displace cattle from private and public lands every year,

WHEREAS, the United States Government has a hundreds of thousands of acres of land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP),

WHEREAS, in the event of a natural disaster a rancher has already suffered a sizable loss many time in both forage and livestock,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC support USDA authorizing Emergency Use of CRP lands.

PLC-236
2007

BLM PERMIT RENEWAL

WHEREAS, legislation stating that the BLM shall renew expiring livestock grazing permits or leases under current terms and conditions until such time as those permits/leases can be fully processed expires on September 30, 2008, and

WHEREAS, it is the current policy of the Department of Interior that ranchers who hold grazing permits/leases that expire after that deadline will not receive a permit/lease renewal until such time as the BLM can fully process those renewals as specified by those Interior policies on this subject, and

WHEREAS, the BLM does not appear to have sufficient time or personnel necessary to conduct the administrative tasks required by these Interior policies to renew all grazing permits/leases prior to the end of their current term; and

WHEREAS, both the Taylor Grazing Act and Federal Land Policy and Management Act confirm the right of Preference for the renewal of BLM livestock grazing permits/leases by current owners of these grazing permits/leases if they remain qualified; and

WHEREAS, ranchers and local western communities affected by this situation will suffer severe adverse economic impacts should BLM term grazing permits/leases be subject to any delays in the renewal of the rancher's ability to use their Adjudicated Preference;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC will work directly with the Department of Interior to insure that the BLM has the capability to conduct a science based trend monitoring program in consultation with the grazing permittees to provide data to support continued livestock grazing on BLM lands and work to have the Department rescind those policies that preclude the ability of the BLM to fully process these renewals prior to end of their current term, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC will work with Congress to insure that BLM grazing permits/leases of ranchers who hold the Preference for the renewal of these permits/leases do not administratively expire because the BLM is not able to fully process these permits/leases or comply with internal policies that require more than is mandated by federal statutes.

PLC-237
2008

GRAZING MITIGATION FOR ENERGY AND MINERAL DEVELOPMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that in all areas of energy and mineral development on federal lands, grazing mitigation measures be agreed to by field operators and be included in the Record of Decision authorizing the development. Such measures should include:

- An annual operator meeting with permittees.
- Full compensation for livestock lost to energy and mineral activities.
- Establishment of a fund, or a firm commitment to funding, for development of range improvement projects that compensate for the development impacts.
- Protection of necessary livestock movement corridors
- Appropriate management of pipeline and other trenching projects so as not to severely impact livestock's natural movement through pastures.
- Construction and maintenance of quality fencing to assure that wildlife and livestock will not access contaminated water in pits
- Properly constructed and maintained cattle guards on all roads
- Enforcement of appropriate speed limits on all roads
- Provision of alternative forage or feed sources if field development reaches a level where continued grazing is not economically viable for the permittee.

PLC-238
2009 (New)

NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

WHEREAS, public lands ranchers have unique conditions as grazing permit holders and may move livestock to multiple areas a year, and

WHEREAS, there is a lack of facilities and extensive regulation involved with permitting for development of facilities and the remote land areas of the West, and

WHEREAS, a catastrophic animal disease, such as the Foot-and-Mouth Disease that struck Great Britain, can imperil the U.S. sheep and cattle industry;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC leadership and staff are hereby directed to ensure that any animal identification system include the following;

1. Flexibility to accommodate varied production systems in the United States, including group lot movement and identification of livestock.
2. It should be based in the private sector to the greatest extent practicable while accommodating individual state programs where supported by the industry.
3. Implementation must minimize the economic burden to the sheep and cattle industries on either public or private lands, and ensure the confidentiality of producer records.

PLC-239
2009 (New)

PERMIT RENEWALS – NEPA COMPLIANCE

WHEREAS, the Land Use Plan, Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision is the process used by the BLM to comply with the NEPA with respect to the livestock grazing program;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports a policy that the BLM administrative action to renew a grazing permit authorized by a LUP is a non-discretionary action and not a Decision subject to NEPA analysis in addition to that conducted on the LUP or subject to the provisions of Part 4160 of the Grazing Regulations.

PLC-240
2009 (New)

LAND MANAGEMENT AND NEPA

WHEREAS, the US Forest Service and BLM have to conduct NEPA analysis when making land management decisions, and

WHEREAS, the lack of management has major impacts, namely catastrophic fires that destroy the landscape and lead to conversion of forests and rangeland to brushland, and

WHEREAS, foregone management practices such as fire fighting activities could be taxed as a revenue source for Secure Rural Schools payments,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports requiring NEPA analysis when federal agencies make a decision not to manage the resource, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports the inclusion of a cost analysis when federal agencies make a decision not to manage the resource.

PLC-241

2009 (New)

RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT ON PUBLIC LANDS

WHEREAS, the development of green types of energy such as wind and solar will be the means for achieving the renewable energy goals set forth by congress, and

WHEREAS, PLC believes the development of these types of energy sources needs to be done in a way that has the least impact on the environment and current land uses, and

WHEREAS, the development of green/renewable energy will be unevenly distributed around the United States with the bulk of the large national projects located in the West, increasing the potential of conflicts with existing multiple uses of public lands, and

WHEREAS, the dedication of public land to a single use by eliminating multiple use management will disrupt existing wildlife, ecological and recreational uses and adversely impact the stable business climate that our producers need to continue to be productive and profitable;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports renewable energy projects that result in no significant loss of AUMs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC requests that the input and involvement of permittees and local government be included in identification of future project sites and development, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC seeks financial and/or other mitigation for AUM loss resulting from projects, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports the use of vacant allotments for mitigation purposes when they are adjacent to the permittee's operation and/or the permittee approves mitigation on an individual basis, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC encourages federal land management agencies to set up project areas under a lease agreement so that project sites can then revert back to historic use.

PLC-242

2009 (New)

POISONING FRESH WATER AQUATIC SPECIES

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes the use of Rotenone on Federal Lands for the killing of aquatic species in the West in the absence of adequate analysis of health impacts under FIFRA, consultation under ESA and other environmental laws. In the case of State agency action, no poisoning of waters with Rotenone shall be undertaken without approval of affected downstream water users. No State or Federal action should be taken without availability of administrative appeal.

PLC-243
2009 (New)

PERMIT RELINQUISHMENT THROUGH MATRICES

WHEREAS, permit relinquishment is currently covered by existing BLM policy,
and

WHEREAS, programmatic permit retirement encourages permit buy-outs,
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes permit relinquishment being
handled in programmatic fashion by matrices in land use plan documents.

Plant and Animal Control

PLC-300

2007

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL

WHEREAS, PLC believes that wildlife is a valuable public resource, it also realizes that wildlife must be responsibly managed to reduce damage to agriculture and private property,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports animal damage control efforts on public lands, employing appropriate natural, toxic and mechanical means.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC will not condone irresponsible or illegal efforts to control predation and damage to private property.

PLC-301

2008

WILDLIFE SERVICES

WHEREAS, PLC supports a strong Wildlife Service (WS) program administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal-Plant Health Inspection Service; and

WHEREAS, the current WS program would be substantially strengthened if a well-defined statement of philosophical direction were adopted; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports full funding for WS to control all predators detrimental to our industry.

PLC-302

2007

PRAIRIE DOGS

WHEREAS, uncontrolled populations of prairie dogs on federal lands are causing economic devastation to permitted livestock grazing, wildlife, and adjoining private lands,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports control and reductions of the prairie dog population on federal rangelands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all prairie dog management plans or EIS's include a contingency plan which addresses the hazards to human health and life in the event of an outbreak of communicable disease, such as bubonic plague or rabies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes any unwarranted, unscientific attempts to list the prairie dog as a threatened or endangered species, or as a component of critical habitat for another threatened or endangered species.

PLC-303
2007

NOXIOUS WEEDS AND PESTS

WHEREAS, noxious weeds and pests present an ever increasing problem on private and public lands; and

WHEREAS, weeds and pests on federal lands are spreading and contaminating private lands,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests that all federal and state land management agencies instigate a more effective weed and pest control program that complies with state and county laws and regulations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC recommends that weed and pest control funds be given a high priority in the budget process.

PLC-304
2007

WILD HORSES AND BURROS

WHEREAS, excessive numbers of feral horses and burros continue to cause increasing deterioration of range conditions in many areas of the West; and

WHEREAS, PLC is concerned about adequate funding of the Wild Horse and Burro Program in order to reduce the numbers to a reasonable level,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports legislation that would provide for immediate identification of proper population levels and removal of excess numbers when potential resource damage is imminent;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that appropriate managing agencies should reimburse livestock operators for damages to improvements caused by these animals.

PLC-305
2007

TRANSPLANTING OF WILDLIFE AND FERAL ANIMALS

WHEREAS, the transfer and transplant of all animals with no requirement for testing for contagious or communicable diseases presents a potential threat to the spread of disease to all other animals, domestic or wild,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC recommends that all animals being transferred be required to meet the same criteria applied to the movement of domestic animals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes the introduction of Rocky Mountain or Desert Bighorn sheep into areas where domestic sheep and goat grazing occurs or vacant federal or state trust lands sheep allotments exist until scientific testing has proven beyond reasonable doubt that there is no disease transferred between the two species.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC oppose any such releases or agreement being made without the consensus of the affected private interests within the area of impact.

PLC-306
2008

PERMITTEE VOLUNTARY PURCHASE OF WILD HORSES

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need for the BLM to reach Appropriate Management Level (AML) for wild horse and burro populations on public lands, and

WHEREAS, the number of horses in long-term holding facilities is greater than the Federal government's financial capability to care for them,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC will work with the BLM to encourage federal grazing permittees to purchase wild horses.

PLC-307
2007

HORSE HARVESTING AND PROCESSING

WHEREAS, the method of euthanasia employed by processing facilities that harvest horses is a humane end of life, and

WHEREAS, there is a continued need for the humane harvest of horses to prevent the inhumane treatment of horses that would suffer from neglect and abandonment, and

WHEREAS, there exists an extremely insufficient infrastructure and no funding mechanism to support the humane existence of unwanted horses, and

WHEREAS, unwanted horses are processed into products that are consumed by humans in overseas markets, and

WHEREAS, the value of unwanted horses as a food animal dictates they not be abused, lest this value be diminished, and

WHEREAS, the cattle industry depends upon an economically healthy horse industry and systems to offer a humane end of life for unwanted horses,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes any horse harvesting and/or processing prevention act and any such legislation that would prohibit the humane harvest of horses for human consumption.

Endangered Species

PLC-400
2008

ENDANGERED SPECIES

WHEREAS, it has been determined that the Endangered Species Act (ESA) is currently administered with little regard to economic cost /benefit analysis, additional restriction on private property rights, restraint of recognized management practices, and of predator damage; and

WHEREAS, there are no safeguards to assure that information regarding the presence of a species is not improperly acquired by willful trespass; and

WHEREAS, there are no safeguards to exclude or weigh information submitted by persons or organizations that have a vested or potential financial interest in promoting, encouraging or supporting the determination of listing threatened or endangered species,

WHEREAS, the ESA is being used as a method of land control,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC will seek amendments to the ESA regulations and statute and the regulations applicable to special status species for the purpose of minimizing unnecessary burdens on permittees while protecting wildlife.

PLC-401
2007

DELISTING OF ENDANGERED SPECIES

WHEREAS, wherever a noted species has reached established statutory recovery levels through management and regulation, multiplied to the point of no longer needing the protection of the Endangered Species Act within the preferred habitat, and

WHEREAS, the mechanism for delisting a recovered species is cumbersome,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC encourages Congress to change the Endangered Species Act to reflect the need to use the same level of scientific data to both list and delist species.

PLC-402
2008

BLACK FOOTED FERRET RECOVERY

WHEREAS, established prairie dog towns have been identified as targets for the introduction of the black footed ferret,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and other federal agencies accept their responsibility to control prairie dogs in the interest or preservation of the quality of the soil and range resource and general wildlife habitat, and PLC would support black footed ferret introduction as a biological control method provided that these populations be classed as "experimental-non-essential," inside or outside designated reintroduction areas. And further, when and if the black footed ferret is introduced, the "experimental-non-essential" classification would

not preclude any prairie dog control which may be necessary, would not negatively impact existing private property and business interest rights, and would not preclude normal management practices and multiple use management.

PLC-403
2007

GRIZZLY BEARS AND WOLVES

WHEREAS, realizing that grizzly bears and wolves are classified as "endangered species;" and,

WHEREAS, good range management practices cannot be conducted in livestock grazing areas where bears, wolves and other predators are prevalent,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests that grizzly bears and wolves be treated as predators whenever they are harassing, chasing, injuring, or killing on domestic livestock grazing areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC is strongly opposed to the expansion of existing parks or designation of "ecosystems" that give priority to grizzly bear and wolf recovery over economic values.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC support the de-listing of the wolf and the grizzly bear from the Endangered Species Act and the control of the grizzly bear and wolf be turned over to the appropriate state authority.

PLC-404
2007

GRIZZLY BEAR RECOVERY

WHEREAS, recovery of the grizzly bear within the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem has been achieved; and,

WHEREAS, federal agencies acknowledge the fact that the number of sheep and cattle allotments, stocking rates and distribution of livestock did nothing to preclude recovery of the grizzly bear; and,

WHEREAS, delisting of the grizzly will not occur until the U.S. Forest Service completes forest plan amendments for grizzly bear conservation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC opposes any U.S. Forest Service Plan amendments that require or encourage any removals of livestock grazing or reduction in animal months in response to grizzly bear conservation.

PLC-405
2007

EXECUTIVE ORDER FOR SCIENCE AND THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests the President of the United States to issue an Executive Order directing federal agencies to adhere to the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court (Daubert, and its progeny) regarding the qualification of scientific experts, and the validity of scientific evidence used by federal agencies in making decisions under the

Endangered Species Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the National Forest Management Act.

PLC-406
2007

**USE BY THE U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE OF THE BEST SCIENTIFIC
AND COMMERCIAL INFORMATION**

WHEREAS, well-managed livestock grazing has been shown by the best scientific and commercial information available to be compatible with or helpful to many listed threatened and endangered species,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC will advocate for compliance by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with the legal requirement to utilize the best scientific and commercial information available as required under the standards of the Federal Data Quality Act regarding well-managed livestock grazing when assessing threats posed to any species proposed for listing or already listed under the authority of the Endangered Species Act.

PLC-407
2008

NEED FOR WARM WATER FISH RESEARCH

WHEREAS, most fish research relied upon as a basis for decision making by the Fish and Wildlife Service and others has been based on habitat requirements of cold water fish, and

WHEREAS, the use of that data to inform native warm water fish management decisions in the southwest is not scientifically supportable due to significantly different species habitat and survival requirements, and

WHEREAS, scientists at the Rocky Mountain Research Station in Flagstaff, Arizona have been doing research on listed native southwestern warm water fish and have compiled over a decade of data on Arizona and New Mexico streams, and

WHEREAS, warm water fish research needs to be continued and targeted on grazing/fish population interactions in order to inform federal management of warm water streams and adjacent Forest and BLM grazing allotments,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC aggressively support continued warm water fish research by the same research scientists to develop a scientific basis for federal land management actions to promote the recovery of native warm water fish populations.

Current and Proposed Law/Policy

PLC-500
2007

DAVIS-BACON ACT

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC requests that Congress exempt federal range improvement contracts from the Davis-Bacon Act concerning wage rates.

PLC-501
2007

TAYLOR GRAZING ACT AND ORGANIC ACT

WHEREAS, the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 and the U.S. Forest Service Organic Act of 1897 and concurrent amendments have provided economic stability to the western livestock industry and to western rural communities, and

WHEREAS, the Acts have provided sound range management practices to western rangelands, incentives for resource enhancement and economic stability to counties through range improvement ownership,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 and the U.S. Forest Service Organic Act of 1897 and concurrent amendments as written.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that any regulations affecting grazing on federal lands comply with the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934 and the U.S. Forest Service Organic Act of 1897 and amendments as written.

PLC-502
2008

GRAZING FEES

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports the grazing fee formula issued in the 1986 Executive Order.

PLC-503
2007

NO NET LOSS/GAIN OF PREFERENCE RIGHTS AND PERMITTED USE

WHEREAS, PLC does not oppose valid land exchanges or disposal of federal lands if the interest of the permittee are not adversely affected; and

WHEREAS, there appears to be an attempt by various state and federal agencies to specifically acquire property through trade or purchase for the sole benefit of wildlife, recreation, or access, at the exclusion of multiple use values,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports land exchanges that result in no net loss of preference rights or permitted use, or no net gain in federal and state land.

PLC-504
2007

GRAZING ADVISORY BOARDS

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC seeks legislation authorizing local Grazing Advisory Boards within the jurisdiction of the BLM and the Forest Service.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the functions of said boards be broadened to the offering of advice and the making of recommendations on all matters pertaining to grazing.

PLC-505
2007

RANGE IMPROVEMENT FUNDS

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports the addition of the following proviso to the end of the second sentence of Section 401(B)(1) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, amended (43 USC 1701): "provided, however, that such discretion will not result in less funds than what otherwise would have been used for such purposes in any district, region or national forest over a five-year accounting period."

PLC-506
2008

NATIONAL FORESTS AND GRASSLANDS

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports legislative efforts to remove the National Grasslands from the National Forest System.

PLC-507
2007

MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports the multiple use management concept on the federal lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC generally opposes congressional or administrative designations, including the designation of study areas, that defacto result in single use management or single use allotments in derogation of the long-standing principle of multiple use.

PLC-508
2007

WITHDRAWALS FROM MULTIPLE USE

WHEREAS, large areas of the Federal Domain have been withdrawn from multiple use,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that further withdrawals of Federal lands be subject to federal, social and economic analyses regarding losses to the public of the natural resources of grazing, timber, harvest, mineral development and petroleum.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Department of the Interior continue to review existing withdrawals as mandated by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, and proceed to revoke those which are no longer justified.

PLC-509
2007

WILDERNESS AREAS

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC believes that any wilderness legislation passed by Congress or wilderness study areas proposed by a Department should:

1. Designate as wilderness only those areas that meet the criteria specified in the Wilderness Act of 1964;
2. Not designate as wilderness those areas which have been gerrymandered to include non-wilderness corridors which contain roads;
3. Allow livestock permittees to use motorized, mechanized equipment in wilderness areas to promptly and economically care for livestock, range or water improvements, fences, etc., and to provide for predator control;
4. Recognize state water rights and provide that the wilderness areas are not subject to the doctrine of federal reserved water rights;
5. Allow for increased grazing in wilderness or wilderness study areas when range conditions permit;
6. Specify what currently inactive or vacant allotments indicated that grazing had previously been "established" within the meaning and intent of the Wilderness Act of 1964 and that grazing on such allotments within wilderness areas can resume when range or economic conditions allow;
7. Amend the Wilderness Act of 1964 to require that an economic impact statement be prepared for any area identified, or under study, prior to enactment of legislation establishing such wilderness areas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports inclusion of the following language in any and all legislation designating wilderness areas:

"No provisions of this Act or any other act of Congress designating areas as part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, nor any guidelines, rules or regulations issued thereunder, shall constitute the establishment of an expressed or implied right to the acquisition, diversion, appropriation, use or flow of water to the federal government because of the designation except in full compliance with states' water laws."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC opposes any wilderness legislation until such time as the question of reserved water rights on federal lands is resolved.

PLC-510
2007

WILDERNESS AREAS

WHEREAS, the United States has adequately addressed the issue of wilderness regarding BLM wilderness, Forest Service wilderness, wildlife refuges, primitive areas, and national conservation areas,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC strongly opposes the unilateral designation of wilderness areas, wild and scenic rivers, national conservation areas, primitive areas, wildlife refuges, national monuments, or other special use areas which conflict with private property rights or restrict the continued multiple use of federal lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that existing Wilderness Study areas should be immediately evaluated for release.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in the event that wilderness designations are developed at the local level through a collaborative process, PLC will defer to the locally impacted permittees and ranchers.

PLC-511
2008

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT

WHEREAS, the National Historic Preservation Act is being interpreted to include all lands suitable for grazing and all activities resulting of grazing; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports legislation requiring that section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) shall not delay or impede the authorization or reauthorization of any activity on federal lands where such activity has been previously authorized; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this legislation contain provisions which shall not delay or impede the maintenance of existing facilities nor the approval, construction, or maintenance of environmental mitigation measures.

PLC-512
2007

RANGELAND HEALTH AND PERMITTEE SECURITY

WHEREAS, legislation has been introduced to authorize the buyout of grazing permits on federal lands and environmentalists are lobbying on behalf of the legislation in Congress,

WHEREAS, we oppose any grazing permit buyout and we oppose any net loss of grazing Animal Unit Months (AUMs),

WHEREAS, the ranching industry needs a short-term policy that addresses the immediate challenge posed by the introduction of the buyout proposal and a long-term policy that addresses the causes and effects of the creation of vacant grazing allotments on public lands,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports the introduction of legislation to compensate permittees for loss of income when permittees are forced to relinquish

grazing permits because of government policy and conflicts with other multiple uses that render grazing impractical,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports the creation of an industry task force to develop a comprehensive legislative proposal for introduction in Congress to strengthen grazing on public lands by

1. Promoting rangeland health
2. Focusing the commitment of federal funds on resource management rather than administrative processes, to the extent allowed under the law; and,
3. Other factors needed for a healthy and vibrant grazing industry on public lands.

PLC-513
2007

CONSERVATION FUNDING

BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports federal legislation during 109th Congress with a conservation purpose that does not include acquisition of land for public ownership but does include funds for wildlife management and other purposes approved by the PLC.

PLC-514
2008

MEXICAN BORDER AND IMMIGRATION REFORM

WHEREAS, the current situation along the Mexican border is having severe impacts for livestock producers ranching on and/or near the border, and

WHEREAS, current public policy tends to discourage legal, orderly and accountable immigration, resulting in extensive damage to private property and natural resources,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports reform of immigration policy and implementation of a legal, safe and accountable guest-worker program which accomodates documented temporary guest-workers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the United States government compensate federal grazing permittees for costs incurred to repair and remediate damages caused by illegal immigrants and U.S. Border Patrol attempts to enforce current border policy.

PLC-515
2009

OPPOSITION TO GRAZING PERMIT RETIREMENT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, range scientists have determined that managed livestock grazing enhances rangeland vegetation by accelerating plant succession, increasing plant diversity, increasing plant productivity, and reducing plant mortality during drought; and

WHEREAS, numerous studies show many desirable wildlife species benefit from livestock grazing, and moderately grazed mid-seral rangelands support a higher diversity of wildlife species than those areas that are not grazed; and

WHEREAS, there is a strong socio-economic basis to protecting viable livestock operations, that include federal grazing permits, in sustaining valuable open space, county tax bases, and other important sources of rural income, tradition and culture; and

WHEREAS, the livestock grazing industry is opposed to any grazing programs that condone extended periods of non-use beyond that which is ecologically sustainable and in the best interest of individual permittees; and

WHEREAS, there is strong political and citizen opposition to the use of federal and or state tax dollars to terminate grazing on federal grazing permits owned by various entities and individual ranchers; and

WHEREAS, livestock producers and federal grazing permit holders are entitled to sell or purchase grazing permits and private property whenever they decide it is in their best interest.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that while PLC recognizes the right of individual grazing permittees to sell or otherwise dispose of their federal grazing permits, PLC supports the continuation of livestock grazing on federal lands, and opposes any programs that are intended to permanently retire or vacate federal grazing permits.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC will defer to the state affiliate current in their dues when the affiliate supports legislation to retire grazing permits on a site-specific area within that state.

PLC-516
2008

MARKET BASED CARBON SEQUESTRATION

WHEREAS, some states have promulgated regulations to mandate reductions of greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, efforts are underway by the federal government to develop a climate change policy to reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and

WEREAS, recent EPA greenhouse gas emission inventories have shown that agriculture is a minor source of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, and

WHEREAS, agriculture offers a readily available, low-cost source of offsets that reduces greenhouse gas emissions and provides cost containment in a cap-and-trade system, in addition to other environmental and societal benefits that improve air and water quality and enhance wildlife habitat, and

WHEREAS, public rangelands offer an opportunity to sequester greenhouse gas emissions no different than private rangelands

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC actively engage in the development of market based legislation that identifies agriculture and carbon sequestration as a viable offset strategy, and that:

- provides financial incentives for implementing grazing management practices that sustain or increases carbon sequestration;
- allows public lands permittees to receive financial incentives for implementing management practices that sustain or increase carbon sequestration which may require new management practices not currently used to be applied to permits as agreed to be the agency and permittee;

- would not allow livestock to be removed or a reduction of AUMs from federal lands or require permittees to change management practices relative to soil carbon sequestration;
- minimize costs imposed on livestock producers and society generally;
- provides for unlimited agricultural offsets that includes recognition and inclusion of practices for early adopters;
- does not require the reporting of agricultural greenhouse gas emissions; and which,
- makes a substantial or significant reduction in U.S. greenhouse gas emissions below current levels.

PLC-517
2009 (new)

DEATH TAX AG PRODUCTION EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, ranches are frequently sold into smaller parts upon the death of the owner because of the family's inability to pay the estate tax on the property, and

WHEREAS, loss of ranches hurts the ability of agriculture communities to stay intact and young people to be in the business, and

WHEREAS, selling off ranches also leads to loss of open space and the conservation benefits from that space;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, PLC seeks enactment of a new section of the Internal Revenue Code on inheritance taxes to include the elective option of passing on a productive ranch or farm enterprise to succeeding generations' tax free as long as the entity remains in agricultural or ranching production or other methods that minimize the burden of the estate tax for future generations.

PLC-518
2009 (New)

FARM BILL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

WHEREAS, ranchers in the West are the best stewards of the land, and

WHEREAS, sometimes ranchers may wish to take advantage of Farm Bill conservation programs to enhance their stewardship;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports legislation and administrative policies to make Farm Bill programs as responsive to the needs of western producers as possible.

Industry Philosophy/Range Practices

PLC-600

2007

STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the stewardship Experimental-program has demonstrated that diverse interests can reach consensus leading to the institution and installation of sound range management practices and improvements,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that participants in the stewardship program be offered after-the-fact billing of grazing fees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC encourages the extension and implementation of this program on additional federal ranges whenever requested.

PLC-601

2007

COUNTY AND COMMUNITY STABILITY

WHEREAS, America's counties and rural communities are dependent upon the natural resources on public (federal) lands; and

WHEREAS, natural resources provided by the management of our public lands are important to the economy and prosperity of the nation; and

WHEREAS, resource-dependent counties and communities of the nation are not adequately considered when federal lands management agencies decide on outputs from these public lands; and

WHEREAS, federal land management agencies are reducing the outputs of the federal lands far below sustainable levels without regard for natural resource- dependent counties and communities; and

WHEREAS, planning for outputs from the public lands is not done with the best interests economic or otherwise, of the nation or resource-dependent counties and communities in mind; and

WHEREAS, to insure natural resource-dependent counties and communities are protected, there should be laws to direct public agencies to consider the effect of their actions on these counties and communities; and

WHEREAS, counties and rural communities are an important part of the culture and economic base of the nation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC is in full support of national legislation to give explicit consideration to natural resource dependent counties and communities in the federal land planning process. Recognition of these counties and communities should come in the form of identifying minimum production levels which should be produced from lands surrounding these counties and communities. These counties and communities should also be given maximum consideration during any planning process which would affect output production from public lands.

PLC-602
2007

COOPERATIVE RANGELAND RESEARCH

WHEREAS, rangelands produce large quantities of forage inedible by man, but readily converted by grazing animals into high quality protein for human consumption; and

WHEREAS, investment in rangeland research has lagged far behind other areas of research concern and deserves increased emphasis as the most energy-efficient form of agriculture; and

WHEREAS, investment in agricultural research produces a high return in production and efficiency for each dollar invested,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC supports passage of a cooperative rangeland research act which will provide funds to qualified state universities on a matching basis for research in rangeland management, and an appropriate level of funds for other rangeland research activities.

PLC-603
2007

COORDINATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, local voluntary involvement in the coordinated resource management planning (CRMP) process is critical if the process is to be useful and effective in resolving local conflicts between counties, state, and federal agencies and user groups,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC:

1. Supports limiting membership on CRMP committees to local representatives of user groups;
2. Supports the participation of the appropriate government officials on such committees;
3. Supports procedures to insure that CRMP committee members are qualified to represent the interest they purport to represent;
4. Will only support the establishment of CRMP committees when the rule of consensus is adhered to in decision making.

PLC-604
2007

LIVESTOCK PRODUCER ACKNOWLEDGMENT

BE IT RESOLVED, that the livestock producers operating on the federal lands be acknowledged and considered full professionals in their field by the federal land management agencies and respective state fish & game managers in the planning and management programs and process within the boundaries of their ranching operation and will be included in the professional teams.

PLC-605
2007

COMMENSURABILITY

BE IT RESOLVED, that the concepts of commensurability and historical first use be maintained and strengthened in all laws and regulations relating to public land grazing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the original water and or land base property requirements be enforced.

INTERIM POLICY

PLC-Interim
2010

National Monument Designations

WHEREAS, United States Presidents have aggressively designated hundreds of thousands of acres of land across the western United States as national monuments through use of the Antiquities Act, and

WHEREAS, monument designations continue to lock down the land and restrict multiple uses to the point of elimination through restricted access and increased regulation, thus destroying the social and economic fabric of the local area, as well as the high level of ecological integrity which merited its designation,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, PLC strongly support Congressional review and modification of the Antiquities Act to include Congressional approval of Presidential Designations and a requirement that existing levels of grazing be maintained, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC supports Congressional action to exempt the western states from the Antiquities Act, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, PLC work toward the reversal or repeal of past unnecessary National Monument designations, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in the meantime, PLC will work with locally affected members and land management agencies to ensure that management plans for monuments incorporate livestock grazing and other multiple uses.

Property-Related

100. Allocation of Available AUMs
101. Reissuance of Grazing Preference
102. Changes in Area of Use
103. Unwillful Trespass
104. Range Improvements
105. Federal Grazing Permit Value
106. Leasing Forest Service Grazing Permits
107. Wildlife Refuge Grazing Permit Transfers
108. Land Disposal
109. Land Sales and Exchanges
110. Public Acquisition of Private Lands and Permits
111. Intermingled Lands
112. Property Takings
113. State Water Rights
114. States' Rights
115. Local Participation in Fire Fighting
116. Communicating Let Burn Areas
117. Protection of Base Property
118. Conservation Easements
119. Transfer of Water
120. Term Conservation Easements

Agency Policy

200. Animal Unit Months
201. Base Stocking Rates
202. Billing Procedures for Public Grazing
203. BLM Affected Interest and Interested Parties
204. Damages from Energy and Minerals
205. 8100 Funds
206. Economic Efficiencies of Rangeland Grazing
207. Subleasing
208. Livestock Management Contracts
209. Fire Control
210. Refuge Grazing Plan Development
211. Fish and Wildlife Service Non Use
212. Non-Use
213. Land Management Agencies' Range Budget
214. Grazing EIS's
215. Grazing Levels
216. Qualifications of Agency Personnel
217. Riparian Areas
218. Vandalism on Public Lands
219. Wildlife Forage Allocation
220. Recreational OHV Management
221. National Park Service Wildlife Management Practices

- 222. Federal Land Exchanges and Sales
- 223. Proper use of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (FLPMA)
- 224. Department of Interior water Development Policy
- 225. Mandatory Compliance Reporting by Permittees
- 226. Monitoring Promotion
- 227. Notification of Permittees for Vacant Allotments
- 228. Cross-Boundary Environmental Documentation
- 229. Post-Fire Grazing on Federally Managed Land
- 230. Permit Renewals
- 231. 90-Day Petition Findings
- 232. Presidential Executive Order
- 233. Use of the Best Scientific and Commercial Information
- 234. Enforcement of Federal Officer Ethics
- 235. Emergency CRP Use
- 236. BLM Permit Renewal
- 237. Grazing Mitigation for Energy and Mineral Development
- 238. National Animal Identification System
- 239. Permit Renewals – NEPA Compliance
- 240. Land Management and NEPA
- 241. Renewable Energy Development on Public Lands
- 242. Poisoning Fresh Water Aquatic Species
- 243. Permit Relinquishment through Matrices

Plant and Animal Control

- 300. Animal Damage Control
- 301. Wildlife Services
- 302. Prairie Dogs
- 303. Noxious Weeds and Pests
- 304. Wild Horses and Burros
- 305. Transplanting of Wildlife and Feral Animals
- 306. Permittee Voluntary Purchase of Wild Horses
- 307. Horse Harvesting and Processing

Endangered Species

- 400. Endangered Species
- 401. Delisting of Endangered Species
- 402. Black Footed Ferret Recovery
- 403. Grizzly Bears and Wolves
- 404. Grizzly Bear Recovery
- 405. Executive Order for Science and the Endangered Species Act
- 406. Use by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service of the Best Scientific and Commercial Information
- 407. Need for Warm Water Fish Research

Current and Proposed Law/Policy

- 500. Davis-Bacon Act

- 501. Taylor Grazing Act and Organic Act
- 502. Grazing Fees
- 503. No Net Loss/Gain of Preference Rights and Permitted Use
- 504. Grazing Advisory Boards
- 505. Range Improvement Funds
- 506. National Forests and Grasslands
- 507. Multiple Use Management
- 508. Withdrawals from Multiple Use
- 509. Wilderness Areas
- 510. Wilderness Areas
- 511. National Historic Preservation Act
- 512. Rangeland Health and Permittee Security
- 513. Conservation Funding
- 514. Mexican Border and Immigration Reform
- 515. Opposition to Grazing Permit Retirement Programs
- 516. Market Based Carbon Sequestration
- 517. Death Tax Ag Production Exemption
- 518. Farm Bill Conservation Programs

Industry Philosophy/Range Practices

- 600. Stewardship Program
- 601. County and Community and Stability
- 602. Cooperative Rangeland Research
- 603. Coordinated Resource Management
- 604. Livestock Producer Acknowledgment
- 605. Commensurability