What is the Public Lands Council?

- The voice of Western ranching in Washington D.C., protecting the interests of 22,000 cattle and sheep producers operating on federal lands
- Comprised of affiliates in 13 Western states, ASI, NCBA, Association of National Grasslands
- Funded by affiliate dues based on AUMs per state
- Board consists of representatives from each State affiliate
- Annual Meeting held each September
- Legislative Conference held each Spring in Washington D.C.
Current Issues and Priorities

Operational Certainty for Permittees

• Endangered Species Act Reform
• Greater Sage Grouse RMPAs
• Wild Horses
• Antiquities Act Abuse
• Environmental Litigation Abuse
• Administration Transition Process
Litigation

• PLC engages in a variety of legal battles on behalf of ranchers
  – Defending agency action against radical environmentalists
  – Challenging agency actions (often taken to placate radical environmentalists)
  – Preserving inherent value of preference right and property value of permit ownership

• Coordinates efforts with local, state, and national affiliates, AFBF and state Farm Bureaus, allied industry groups, etc.
  – Amicus briefs
  – Intervention to protect industry interests when/where appropriate
Educating the Public and Congress

Public Land Ranching by the Numbers

Public land ranchers actively preserve our nation's natural resources while providing vital food and fiber to the nation and the world.

- 40% of the western cattle herd
- 50% of the nation's sheep herd

Public land ranchers work throughout the western states and spend time on public lands.

$1.5 billion added to the U.S. economy annually by public lands ranching.

It costs the BLM:
- $5 per ACRE for ungrazed public lands vs. $2 PER ACRE maintained by ranchers.

Public land ranchers save the federal government $750 MILLION annually in land management costs.

Public land ranching creates 18,000+ JOBS.

Ranchers worked with the USDA to conserve, restore, or maintain 4 MILLION ACRES OF Sage Grouse Habitat. Leading the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to remove the sage grouse from the Endangered Species Act.

For more information, visit: www.publiclandsCouncil.org
Reaching New Audiences through Social Media

“Well-managed grazing provides numerous environmental benefits... and supports healthy watersheds, carbon sequestration, recreational opportunities, and wildlife habitat.”
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management

“Grazing practices based on ecological principles on rangelands can be an effective means of supporting fish and wildlife populations.”
- U.S. National Resources Conservation Service

Grazing lands are “a major source of watershed filtration and ground water recharge, providing improved water and air quality.”
- U.S. Department of Agriculture

Proper grazing is “the most ecologically sustainable form of agriculture.”
- U.S. Department of Agriculture

Grazing can “replicate natural processes and keep lands healthy.”
- National Forest Service
Grazing is Essential to Federal Land Management

RANCHERS MAINTAIN FEDERAL LAND, SAVING THE GOVERNMENT $750 MILLION ANNUALLY.

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Legislative Update

• Transition to New Administration
  – Approximately 4000 Political Appointees, 1200 require Senate Confirmation, 35 Interior/UDSA Forest Service alone
  – Zinke confirmation expected next week
  – “Beachhead” teams have landed at agencies – 600 in first wave

• PLC priorities advancing:
  – Antiquities Act Reform (Murkowski)
  – Sage Grouse (Bishop)
  – ESA Reform conversations well underway with House and Senate Chairs

• Congressional Review Act
  – BLM Methane Venting and Flaring (Announced)
  – Stream Protection Rule (Announced)
  – Planning 2.0 (Planned)

• Congress must address Obamacare, Debt Ceiling, FY18 Budget and Appropriations, Immigration/Border Wall, etc – all contentious issues
Questions?

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