

American Sheep Industry Association

Denver, Colorado

January 26, 2017



Introduction

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



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 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 ANUALLY.

It costs the BLM :

\$5 PER ACRE
for ungrazed
public lands

vs.

\$2 PER ACRE
maintained
by ranchers



Legislative Update

- Transition to New Administration
 - Approximately 4000 Political Appointees, 1200 require Senate Confirmation, 35 Interior/USDA 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?

Contact information:

Ethan Lane
Public Lands Council
1275 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 801
Washington, DC 20004
elane@beef.org
(202) 347-0228

