



Secretary Brooke L. Rollins

Washington, D.C. 20250

October 5, 2026

To: All Ranchers Holding Grazing Permits on U.S. Forest Service Grazing Allotments

RE: The June 2026 Grazing Directive

Dear American Ranchers,

You embody the ethos of our nation's founding 250 years ago. For the past 19 months, USDA has worked tirelessly to defend and promote our nation's ranchers and give you the tools to help rebuild our Great American Cattle Herd. I encourage you to visit the new USDA "Ranchers First" webpage (<https://www.usda.gov/ranchers-first>) highlighting the Trump Administration's undisputed status as the most pro-rancher administration in history – in stark contrast to the war on ranchers waged by the previous administration.

Today, the purpose of this letter is to help you, and your fellow federal land ranchers, better access, understand and utilize the information contained in some of these recent steps taken by the Administration to support grazing on National Forests – **specifically as it relates to the Grazing Directive dated June 12, 2026.**

As you may know, on October 20, 2025, alongside three other members of President Trump's cabinet, we announced the "*USDA Plan to Fortify the American Beef Industry*", (the "2025 Beef Plan") to strengthen the American beef industry. Combined, the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administer approximately 240 million acres of rangelands across 28 states, supporting over 23,000 permittees and lessees. Because of the scope of the nation's beef and sheep herds, our efforts to fortify and restore them will by necessity include both BLM and USFS administered lands. Accordingly, on March 31, 2026, Secretary Burgum and I signed the "*Advancing Grazing on Forest Service and BLM Lands Memorandum of Understanding*" (the "MOU") – building upon the 2025 Beef Plan.

Soon after, the USFS began its review of the actions outlined in the 2025 Beef Plan and MOU. On June 12, 2026, the Under Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment Mike Boren and I issued a memorandum to the Forest Service (**the "Grazing Directive"**) which contained clear and concise policy direction providing for further implementation of the 2025 Beef Plan and MOU consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

The Grazing Directive can be found at:

<https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/forest-service-grazing-memo.pdf>.

Together, the vision set forth in the (1) 2025 Beef Plan, (2) MOU, and (3) Grazing Directive complement this Administration's policy to streamline and expand livestock grazing on federal lands, elevate grazing as an Administration priority, and strengthen support for America's ranchers. These three documents reinforce the critical role our federal land ranchers play in national food security; the health of our landscapes; providing sustainable beef, lamb and wool for America's food and fiber supply; and for maintaining the fabric of rural America.

The June Grazing Directive contains clear and concise policy direction providing for further implementation of the 2025 Beef Plan and MOU, and includes items such as:

- A goal of taking appropriate measures to restore at least 500,000 Head Months across National Forest System Lands within 2 years consistent with applicable laws and regulations;
- Implementing a policy of no net loss of Animal Unit Months within allotments consistent with applicable law and regulations;
- Making vacant and closed allotments available for grazing consistent with applicable law and regulations;
- Improving wildfire planning, coordination and recovery (including addressing use of virtual fencing);
- Improving NEPA efficiencies; and
- Improving coordination and building positive relationships with ranchers.

Finally, while the USDA has thousands of humble, dedicated civil servants, in February 2026, I launched the *Farmer and Rancher Freedom Framework*, acknowledging that at times agricultural producers may have been subjected to agricultural lawfare, which is the misuse of administrative, legal, and legislative government systems to adversely impact farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers.

Producers who believe they may have experienced lawfare can visit <https://www.usda.gov/lawfare> to submit any relevant information to our dedicated lawfare team, or if the issue is grazing specific, please feel free to email grazing@usda.gov.

I encourage you to familiarize yourself with the Grazing Directive as we work together to accomplish shared goals on your respective allotments. As we do so, I look forward to hearing your success stories as we work together to see American agriculture succeed for yet another 250 years.

Sincerely,



Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture