



## Frequently Asked Questions: Public Lands Rule and Grazing

### *Will this rule impact my grazing permit or lease?*

In short, it will not. The BLM's management of public lands, including in the proposed Public Lands Rule, explicitly protects valid existing rights and previously authorized uses, including grazing.

The rule would support management for overall land health and create voluntary opportunities for grazing lessees to support those efforts on public lands.

The proposed rule includes important management tools. The Public Lands rule would clarify that the fundamentals of land health (presently located in the BLM's grazing regulations) apply to all renewable resource uses on the public lands. Land health is already a cornerstone of the BLM's grazing program. The proposed Public Lands Rule would build on BLM and grazing permittee/lessee efforts to maintain healthy public lands that can support grazing well into the future.

The proposed rule also identifies conservation leasing as a voluntary tool for carrying out restoration and compensatory mitigation.

### *What is conservation leasing? How will it impact me?*

Conservation leasing, as written in the proposed rule, would be used for two purposes: restoration and compensatory mitigation. Conservation leasing would provide a mechanism for the BLM to work with partners to bring degraded landscapes back to health. The proposed rule *does not* consider scenarios where conservation leases would be required or where all compensatory mitigation would be required to take place on public lands. Conservation leases are a tool that can be proposed by third parties and evaluated by the BLM based on the proposed purpose and location. Conservation leases would be designed on a case-by-case basis to carry out specific purposes.

Leases for compensatory mitigation would help project proponents offset the impacts of development on the public lands. State, local, and industry partners have long asked for a tool to use the public lands when compensating for the impacts of development, which can, in turn, help speed projects while ensuring healthy public land for other uses.

Leases for restoration would allow third parties to work on public lands to return landscapes back to health. For example, a sporting organization could enter into a conservation lease to restore wildlife habitat and be assured under the lease that their work will have time to take root.

Frequently asked questions on conservation leases can be found [here](#).

***Could a conservation lease impact my grazing permit or lease?***

If the BLM receives an application for a conservation lease that conflicts with an existing grazing permit or lease, that conservation lease would not be approved. However, interested grazing permittees or lessees could be part of or support a conservation lease to support compensatory mitigation, such as by improving the quality of habitat on their allotment and potentially coordinating with activities on their private land, as well.

Conservation leases will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to determine whether they are appropriate, but in all cases, valid existing rights and privileges will be respected, and land management decisions will still be subject to local land management plans.

***What happens when a conservation lease ends? Will it prevent other future grazing permits leases?***

When a conservation lease ends, the BLM will manage the lands as set out in the governing land use plan, in accordance with applicable law, and consistent with other authorized uses.

To learn more about the proposed rule, including how to comment, you can visit: [blm.gov/public-lands-rule](http://blm.gov/public-lands-rule).