

**Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management
Grazing Administration Requirements and Processes**

Term Grazing Permit Administration Comparison

Requirement / Process	Forest Service	Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Base Property Requirements	To qualify for a term grazing permit, an applicant must own base property to be permitted. Base Property is land and improvements owned and used by the permittee for a farm or ranch operation and specifically designated by him to qualify for a term grazing permit.	BLM requires an applicant to own or control base property. The base property is land capable of serving as a base of operation for livestock use. For the desert southwest, base property can be water.
Livestock Ownership Requirement	To qualify for a term grazing permit, an applicant must own livestock to be permitted.	BLM does not require ownership of the livestock, but does require proof of control, such as a lease. A surcharge is added for grazing livestock not owned by the permittee.
Permit Acquisition Process	Qualified applicants may be issued permits with term status through prior use, the grant process, purchase of base property or livestock with waiver, or interchange of permits with other agencies.	The preference for obtaining a permit can be acquired by purchasing or leasing base property from a current permittee, or by the current permittee transferring preference to a new base property owned or controlled by someone who wants to acquire a permit.
Permit Renewal Process	Issue new permits with term status to previous holders at the end of each term permit period, provided they continue to meet eligibility and qualifications.	The current permittee has preference for receiving a new permit when the old one expires.
Permit Leasing	Holders of grazing permits with term status shall not lease base property or permitted livestock to someone else and allow the lessee to use the grazing permit.	Grazing permit preference for obtaining a permit can be acquired by leasing base property from a current permittee.

Additional BLM narrative on these topics.

Base Property Requirements

BLM requires ownership or control of base property. For most of the west, the base property is land capable of serving as a base of operation for livestock use. For the desert southwest, base property can be water.

Livestock Ownership Requirement

BLM does not require ownership of the livestock, but does require proof of control and adds a surcharge for grazing livestock not owned by the permittee (with some exceptions for sons and daughters of the permittee). The amount of the surcharge varies from state to state because it is based on the private grazing land lease rate (determined by the National Agricultural Statistics Service for each state).

Permit Acquisition Process

The BLM preference for obtaining a permit can be acquired by purchasing or leasing base property from a current permittee, or by the current permittee transferring preference to a new base property owned or controlled by someone who wants to acquire a permit. The person acquiring the preference through one of these two methods then applies for a permit, and BLM reviews if the new applicant qualifies in accordance with the regulations. If the applicant qualifies (and usually does), a permit is issued. For vacant allotments, BLM has a list of criteria for selecting from amongst multiple applicants.

Permit Renewal Process

For permit renewals in the BLM, the current permittee has preference for receiving a new permit when the old one expires. Ideally, the current permittee applies for a new permit before the existing permit expires. Existing monitoring data and assessments are reviewed to ensure land health standards are being met. Changes from the old permit can be requested by the permittee, or BLM may propose to make adjustments based on changing land conditions. A National Environmental Policy Act document (categorical exclusion, environmental assessment, or environmental impact statement) is completed. Consultation with US Fish and Wildlife is completed if the permit authorizes use on allotment(s) with T&E species habitat. The BLM issues a proposed decision, followed by a final decision. After the administrative review period during which the decision can be appealed for a hearing by an Administrative Law Judge, the renewed permit is issued.