

File Code: 1560; 2200

Date: December 16, 2020

Dear Tribal Leader:

The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service invites you to consult on the proposed directives for Rangeland Management. The proposed directives include Forest Service Manual 2200 (the Rangeland Management Manual), Forest Service Handbook 2209.13 (the Grazing Permit Administration Handbook), and Forest Service Handbook 2209.16 (the Allotment Management Handbook). These directives serve as the foundation for administration of Forest Service livestock grazing permits and allotment management.

The proposed Rangeland Management directives are scheduled to be published in the Federal Register in December 2020. The proposed Rangeland Management directives modernize and address evolving issues related to: qualifications for entities to hold grazing permits; livestock industry's desire to keep successive generations in business; the Forest Service's need to maintain open spaces and keep sustainable livestock operations on the landscape while meeting the demands of multiple uses and values; and compliance with recent policies and legislation. These directives apply to the lower 48 states (the limited grazing that occurs in Alaska is currently regulated under Special Use Permit).

Enclosed with this letter are two documents. The first is a briefing paper or executive summary of the proposed Rangeland Management directives. The second document is a summary report titled Rangeland Management Directives Updates. The proposed directives and supporting information can be accessed on the Office of Tribal Relations website at <https://fs.fed.us/spf/tribalrelations/nationalconsultation.shtml>.

This government-to-government consultation helps to inform the development of the final policy through meaningful dialogue and communication. To allow the Forest Service to consider your input for the final policy your feedback must be received within 120 days of receipt of this correspondence.

The Forest Service offers several options for consultation:

- Face-to-face with the local consulting official (District Ranger or Forest Supervisor), when following state, tribal, and local Pandemic Guidelines.
- Virtual with the local consulting official (District Ranger or Forest Supervisor) and Washington Office subject matter experts.
- Virtual with the Washington Office consulting official(s) and subject matter experts.
- Other methods negotiated by the Tribe (conference call, letter, etc.) via email to: SM.FS.otrtribalcon@usda.gov



Please contact your Regional Tribal Relations Program Manager, or Reed Robinson, Director of the Office of Tribal Relations in Washington, D.C. at SM.FS.ottribalcon@usda.gov to request consultation on the proposed policy and determine how you prefer consultation to occur.

Sincerely,

X 

for

Signed by: TINA TERRELL

CHRISTOPHER B. FRENCH
Deputy Chief, National Forest System

Enclosures (2)

cc: fs-pdl wo nfs rge region rangeland directors; Regional Tribal Relations Program Managers; Paul Strong; fs-pdl wo nfs chief WO Director; Reed Robinson