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First name: FSH 2209.13, Chapter 80

Last name: Grazing Fees

Organization: Office of Policy

Title: Final Directive

Comments: The Forest Service published draft Directives for Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 2209.13, Chapter 80 in December 2020. The Final Rule on Excess and Unauthorized Grazing that became effective in August 2022. The Final Rule gave Rangers the option of waiving Excess/Unauthorized Grazing Fees when certain conditions are met. Updating Chapter 80 does not change this regulation; it simply incorporates the regulation into our Directives.

The FSH 2209.13, Chapter 80 will incorporate the current policy regarding Excess and Unauthorized Use penalty rates. The current policy was published in the annual Interim Directive effective March 1, 2022. We changed our penalty rate to reflect current market value rather than the market value from the 1960s. This Interim Directive satisfied the Finding in the 2016 Government Accounting Office audit that the Forest Service needs to deter illegal grazing. Updating Chapter 80 does not change our policy; it simply incorporates the policy into our Directives.