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Comments: The fact that the handbook that dictates grazing policy and procedures is 30 years old is a huge red flag that the rules need modernization based on today's environmental reality. Firstly, as a taxpayer and non-meat consumer, why should my public lands be allotted to ranchers raising beef cattle and sheep for grazing in perpetuity? The allotments need to be phased out in a clearly defined fashion--landless ranching needs to be phased out--it's not the wild west where land stolen from the first Nations people was considered "free" for white ranches to use as they see fit and that fine tradition continued once the gov't declared it 'public land'. First Nations should have priority to the grazing rights as long as they are devised with the long-term health of the land in mind. Large scale grazing is inherently destructive and there is no "free lunch". It's not free land, the consequences of overgrazing in watersheds is devastating, the competition with wild horses results in their slaughter, and ranchers are not the only taxpayers with a stake in the use of this PUBLIC land. I am sick and tired of the cattle lobby and Western hubris dictating the use of land that deserves consideration from a conservation viewpoint, not just cheap meat production subsidized by tax dollars. It's past time to implement a fair division between those who want preservation and those who want to use it TEMPORARILY to graze their cattle with proper and flexible oversight to respond to the needs of the LAND, not the stupid cows. We now live in an era of climate change--the inconvenient truth is that severe drought, warming temperatures, and ever more severe weather are all here to stay and the land needs to be allowed to recover from all these as well as the fires that are directly related. Ranching needs to join the 21st century--the land is not, in fact, endlessly able to rejuvenate.

Do not bow to the ranching lobby. Time for some of these folks to learn a new trade--the government doesn't owe anyone anything who refuses to acquire new job skills. No one lives on my family farm this generation and we are all doing just FINE. Education is the answer, not government handouts in the form of grazing rights for landless ranchers.