



Secretary Brooke L. Rollins

Washington, D.C. 20250

June 12, 2026

To: All Forest Service Employees
U.S. Forest Service
1400 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

RE: Line Officer Implementation of the Advancing Grazing on Forest Service and BLM Lands Memorandum of Understanding and the USDA–DOI Grazing Action Plan.

Dear Colleagues,

From the northern forests of Alaska to the arid grasslands of the southern plains, and from the rolling hills of Appalachia to the Rocky Mountains, our National Forests and National Grasslands are as unique as the people who live and serve there. As we quickly approach the 250th anniversary of the founding of this nation, I wish to extend my gratitude to the dedicated people who now serve, and have served, the U.S. Forest Service since its inception 121 years ago.

Unlike the national parks, which were created primarily to preserve natural beauty and unique outdoor recreation opportunities, the founders of early national forests envisioned them as working forests with multiple objectives. The Organic Administration Act of 1897, under which most national forests were established, states: "*No national forest shall be established, except to improve and protect the forest within the boundaries, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and to furnish a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States...*"

From those early beginnings, grazing has been an integral part of our nation's national forests, as much of the water originating on national forests is ultimately put to beneficial use through agriculture – including grazing. Later, grazing was more formally recognized with the passage of the Granger-Thye Act in 1950, and ultimately the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and National Forest Management Act in 1976.

As you are aware, on October 20, 2025, alongside Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum, Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert F. Kennedy Jr., and Small Business Administrator Kelly Loeffler, we announced the "*USDA Plan to Fortify the American Beef Industry*", which contained a suite of actions to strengthen the American beef industry, reinforcing and prioritizing the American rancher's critical role in the national security of the United States. This plan recognized that "grazing and rangeland management are central to the

multiple-use missions of both the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Together, the agencies administer approximately 240 million acres of rangelands across 28 states, supporting over 23,000 permittees and lessees.” Because of this large impact on our nation’s beef and sheep herds, any efforts to fortify and restore them will by necessity include our BLM and USFS lands.

As such, on March 31, 2026, Secretary Burgum and I signed the *Advancing Grazing on Forest Service and BLM Lands Memorandum of Understanding* (MOU). The MOU affirms the cooperative implementation of the USDA–DOI Grazing Action Plan (the Grazing Plan) released on October 20, 2025. Together, the Grazing Plan and MOU further the commitment to streamline and expand livestock grazing on federal lands, elevate grazing as an Administration priority, and strengthen support for America’s ranchers. The MOU reinforces the essential role ranchers play in maintaining national food security. Grazing on National Forest System Lands is critical to the health of our landscapes; to providing sustainable beef, lamb and wool for America’s food and fiber supply; and for maintaining the fabric of rural America.

The Forest Service has initiated several of the actions outlined in the MOU and is preparing to fully implement the Grazing Plan. In the following pages you will find clear and concise policy direction from the Under Secretary of Natural Resources and Environment, Michael Boren, further implementing the Grazing Plan and MOU.

Please familiarize yourself with the contents of this document and work to accomplish our shared goals in your respective forests and districts. I look forward to hearing the success stories as we work together to see American agriculture succeed for another 250 years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brooke Rollins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture