

Grazing CRP

When Restoring Private Pasture, Range and Public Lands

Issue:

As Utah rangelands are restored private and public land used for grazing cattle will need a period of time to reestablish vegetation.

Problem:

Federal regulations only allow for grazing CRP during drought and as a maintenance practice.

How this could affect your constituents:

Cattle ranchers in Utah use private pastures, range and public allotments for grazing their cattle. Drought, range conditions and policies of public land agencies have and continue to threaten the economic viability of cattle ranching. The Utah watershed restoration initiative has and will improve range and watershed conditions, yet restored areas will need to be carefully monitored and often will require longer periods of rest thus reducing the time available for use.

The CRP regulations could be constructively modified to allow temporary use of these lands as grass banks. Grazers would then have a short-term source of feed when restoration activities displace their livestock.

What you can do about this issue:

Sponsor and/or support language in the 2007 Farm Bill that would allow for short-term grazing of CRP lands when a grazer is adversely affected by restoration activities on either private or public range lands.

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