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**Public Lands Council**



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**~May 2015~**

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## HIGHLIGHT

### **Final Sage Grouse EISs Released**

The BLM and U.S. Forest Service have finalized their west-wide sage grouse Environmental Impact Statements (EISs). These documents will undergo governors' consistency reviews and be released as "Records of Decision" at the end of July. The EISs are specific to each state and can be found at [this link](#).

They will incorporate regulatory measures into the federal land use plans. PLC is in the process of reviewing the final EISs, along with our state affiliates.

According to the agencies, the EISs focus on "conserving Priority Habitat areas" with measures to "minimize or avoid habitat disturbance." Within Priority Habitat, specific areas have also been identified as Sagebrush Focal Areas. These "focal areas" were tacked on by the federal agencies after the draft EISs had been released, therefore leaving stakeholders no option for comment or input. We are concerned that this added layer of "prioritization" will only make the new regulations more damaging. Already, we have been made aware of such restrictions as 4-mile buffer areas around leks (breeding grounds) in some cases; complete exclusion of grazing in certain areas for some states; and unreasonable stubble height requirements in some cases.

PLC commented extensively on the draft EISs. Our comments can be found at <http://publiclandscouncil.org/sagegrouse.aspx>. We will provide a more detailed report as we comb through the 14 final EISs. In the meantime, PLC continues to push for passage of legislation to prevent the federal land management agencies from implementing regulations that will harm the livestock industry and that go beyond the locally developed state plans already in place.

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### **House Passes Measure to Block Sage Grouse Listing, Prevent Overreaching Regs**

On May 15<sup>th</sup>, the House passed the [National Defense Authorization Act](#), which included an amendment that would keep the greater sage grouse off the endangered species list through the year 2025. It would also allow the states to put to work their own respective sage-grouse plans and make sure that the federal lands in those states are managed in a manner that's consistent with the states' plans. That would mean putting a halt to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service's proposed amendments to land and resource management plans across the West. Many of these proposed amendments would be more harmful to the industry than a sage grouse listing.

Legislators and military officials are concerned that a listing would limit military access to critical facilities and training areas.

"There are already examples of federal management of this species creating problems for our military to properly train," said House Natural Resources Committee Chairman Rob Bishop (R-UT1), the author of the sage grouse amendment.

Standalone bills have also been introduced in both the House and Senate that would do what Bishop's amendment does: delay a listing, and let state management plans take effect on both private and federal land. And, Congress has held a litany of oversight hearings on the issue.

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### **House Natural Resources holds Sage-Grouse Hearing**

On Tuesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> the House Natural Resources Committee held an [oversight hearing](#) on “Empowering State Management of Greater Sage Grouse.” The purpose of the hearing was to examine the conservation efforts of states, to give states the opportunity to explain their role as wildlife managers, and to support true cooperation between the federal agencies and state and local governments. Witnesses included Kathleen Clarke, Director of the Utah Public lands Policy Coordinating Office and former Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); Dustin Miller, Administrator of the Idaho Office of Species Conservation; John Swartout, Senior Policy Advisor to Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper; and Dr. Ed Arnett, Senior Scientist for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership.

At the end of 2011, then Secretary of Interior Salazar encouraged western states to develop their own state management plans to keep the sage-grouse off the endangered species list. Many of the 11 states have completed work on their management plans and have been implementing them. However, significant concerns have been raised across the eleven sage grouse states for several reasons. For one, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) appears not to be acknowledging the states’ efforts to protect the species, a fact that could end in a listing. This would result in a “one size fits all” approach to conservation that, the states argue, will not work on the varying landscapes and climates across the west. There are also concerns regarding the amendments to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and U.S. Forest Service resource management plans. They are overly restrictive and will preclude or delay multiple use activities, including livestock grazing, on public lands.

PLC shares the concerns voiced by the state representatives at the hearing, and encourages locally-based conservation efforts. We continue to support the states’ role as primary managers of wildlife species within their borders.

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### **FWS Budget Hearing**

On May 6<sup>th</sup> the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee held a [hearing](#) entitled “Fish and Wildlife Service: The President’s FY2016 Budget Request for the Fish and Wildlife Service and Legislative Hearing on Endangered Species bills.”

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Director Dan Ashe [testified](#) before the committee, chaired by Senator James Inhofe (R-Okla.), justifying the President’s FY2016 budget request, supporting \$1.6 billion in programs, an increase of \$130.7 million over the 2015 enacted level. The budget also contains an additional \$1.4 billion available under permanent appropriations, which according to the Director, will be provided directly to States for fish and wildlife restoration and conservation.

For most of the hearing, the Director answered the Committee’s questions on the Endangered Species Act (ESA), particularly the upcoming listing determination of the Greater Sage Grouse in September 2015. Director Ashe cited examples of positive and cooperative conservation efforts between the livestock industry and FWS, specifically mentioning the sage grouse plan developed by the state of Wyoming and the conservation efforts taking place in Harney County, Oregon. It was encouraging to hear the Director speak positively about ranching and benefits that ranchers and livestock grazing consistently bring to wildlife habitat conservation.

Particularly encouraging was the Director’s statement that there is room for improvement in the ESA, and that the law does need to be reauthorized. After the hearing, PLC, as member of the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition (NESARC), sent a [letter](#) of encouragement to Ashe. The letter encourages cooperation and dialogue between FWS and all stakeholders involved as we all seek to strengthen and modernize the ESA.

The second half of the hearing focused on several ESA related bills:

- [S.1036](#) - A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide certain Western States assistance in the development of statewide conservation and management plans for the protection and recovery of sage-grouse species, and for other purposes.
- [S.855](#) - Endangered Species Management Self-Determination Act
- [S.736](#) - State, Tribal, and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act
- [S.655](#) - A bill to prohibit the use of funds by the Secretary of the Interior to make a final determination on the listing of the northern long-eared bat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973. ·
- [S.468](#) - Sage-Grouse and Mule Deer Habitat Conservation and Restoration Act of 2015 ·
- [S.293](#) - A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to establish a procedure for approval of certain settlements. ·
- [S.292](#) - 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act ·
- [S.112](#) - Common Sense in Species Protection Act of 2015 ·
- [S.1081](#) - A bill to end the use of body-gripping traps in the National Wildlife Refuge System.

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### **Senate ENR Committee Holds Legislative Hearing**

On Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining held a legislative [hearing](#) on seven bills:

- [S.160](#) (Heller)/H.R. 373 (Heck), to direct the Secretary of the Interior and Secretary of Agriculture to expedite access to certain Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of each Secretary for good Samaritan search-and-recovery missions, and for other purposes
- [S.365](#) (Hatch), to improve rangeland conditions and restore grazing levels within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, Utah
- [S.472](#) (Heller), to promote conservation, improve public land, and provide for sensible development in Douglas County, Nevada, and for other purposes
- [S.583](#) (Risch), to establish certain wilderness areas in central Idaho and to authorize various land conveyances involving National Forest System land and Bureau of Land Management land in central Idaho, and for other purposes
- [S.814](#) (Wyden), to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon to the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- [S.815](#) (Wyden), to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Oregon to the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians
- [S.1240](#) (Heinrich), to designate the Cerros del Yuta and Rio san Antonio Wilderness Areas in the State of New Mexico and for other purposes

PLC and NCBA, the Utah Cattlemen Association and the Utah Wool Growers Association sent a [letter](#) of support for Senator Hatch's bill to restore grazing levels within the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument (S. 365).

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### **Invasive Species Bill reintroduced in House**

We are pleased that the Federal Lands Invasive Species Control, Prevention, and Management Act has been reintroduced in the House of Representatives. Last session, the same bill was introduced by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-Utah) as H.R. 3994.

[H.R. 1485](#) was introduced in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress by Representative Mark Amodei (R-Nev). This legislation seeks to improve the control and management of invasive species that threaten and harm Federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior.

H.R. 1485 directs the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Department of Agriculture (USDA) to control and manage invasive species on the federal lands under their jurisdiction in order to inhibit or reduce their populations and to make restoration and reclamation efforts more effective. The bill requires the department concerned to develop a strategic plan for the implementation of an invasive species program that endeavors to achieve an annual 5% net reduction of invasive species populations on lands managed by that department. Finally, the bill requires USDA and DOI to require the use of the least costly options necessary to perform effectively, based on sound scientific data and other commonly used cost-effective benchmarks in the area.

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### **Senate ENR holds Hearing on Wildfire Management**

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held a [hearing](#) on May 5<sup>th</sup>, chaired by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-Alaska), to receive testimony on the federal government's role in wildfire management, the impact of fires on communities and potential improvements to be made in fire operations. U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Tidwell testified that he expects 2015 to continue the trend of above average fire activity, and that they expect this year's fire suppression costs will be between \$749 million and \$1.657 billion for the agency with the median estimated cost of \$1.225 billion. This is above the ten year average and will certainly call for the agency to transfer funding from other programs, commonly known as "fire borrowing".

Chief Tidwell noted that suppression efforts such as "commercial thinning, hazardous fuels removal, re-introduction of low-intensity fires and other means can reduce fuel loads, provide forest products to local mills, provide jobs to local communities, and improve the ecological health of our forests and rangelands".

PLC encourages USFS to use livestock grazing as another tool in fine fuel reductions on National Forest System lands. We are also supporting legislation that would block any future attempts by the agency to borrow from other accounts including those important to administration of the grazing program.

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### **House Subcommittee Oversight Hearing – Impact of Litigation on Forest Management**

The House Federal Lands Subcommittee held an [oversight hearing](#) on the impact of litigation on federal forest management on May 14<sup>th</sup>. The hearing, "*Litigation and Increased Planning's Impact to Our Nation's Overgrown, Fire-Prone National Forests*" chaired by Rep. Tom McClintock (R-Calif.), focused on the effects of increased litigation on the way the U.S. Forest Service manages our nation's forests. Growing regulations on USFS land have resulted in increased litigation, or the threat of litigation, from radical environmental groups who oppose logging and other productive management activities. Most lawsuits filed against USFS have been based on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, and have effectively blocked proposals to cut trees needed to thin forests. The environmental groups have no real standing in these cases, only baseless claims made solely to delay timber harvesting. In turn, the agency has to unnecessarily spend more taxpayer money on environmental analysis. USFS estimates that sixty percent of field employee's

time is spent on planning and administrative paperwork, instead of actually focusing that time on improving the forest and natural resources. The result: fewer acres have been treated and less wood removed, fewer mills and less job, more fire prone, over-grown forests and more destructive and catastrophic wildfires.

PLC encourages Congress to pass legislation aimed at slowing the barrage of baseless litigation by outside special interest groups.

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### **Rep. McMorris Rodgers introduces FORESTS Act**

Representative Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-Wash.) recently introduced [H.R. 2178](#), the FORESTS (Fostering Opportunities for Resources and Education Spending through Timber Sales) Act of 2015, which would require the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to identify areas in each national forest that should be actively managed and produce at least half of the sustainable timber yield in each management area. The bill has been referred to the Subcommittee on Conservation and Forestry under the jurisdiction of the House Agriculture Committee. PLC fully supports H.R. 2178.

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### **PLC Legislation Tracker**

*Sage Grouse Protection and Conservation Act*, [S. 1036](#), [H.R. 1997](#)

*Death Tax Repeal Act of 2015*, [H.R. 1105](#)

*Regulatory Integrity Protection Act*, [H.R. 1732](#)

*Federal Water Quality Protection Act*, [S. 1140](#)

*Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act*, [H.R. 384](#)

*Secure Our Borders First Act of 2015*, [H.R. 399](#), [S. 208](#)

*Regulatory Accountability Act*, [H.R. 185](#)

*National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act*, [S. 228](#)

*Stewardship End Result Contracting Improvement Act*, [S. 326](#)

*FLAME Act Amendments of 201*, S. 508

*Wildfire Disaster Funding Act*, [H.R. 167](#), [S. 235](#)

*Common Sense in Species Protection Act*, [S. 112](#)

*America's Small Business Tax Relief Act of 2015*, [H.R. 636](#)

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## **ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE**

### **FWS, NOAA Propose Actions on ESA**

On Monday, May 18<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) released a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (NPR) that would require petitioners to solicit information from relevant state wildlife agencies prior to submitting a listing petition to the Services. The proposed rule would also limit petitions to one species at a time.

According to FWS and NOAA, this new set of tools will improve the effectiveness and demonstrate the flexibility of the ESA. According to the official press release, FWS and NOAA will be unveiling additional proposals over the coming year to achieve four broad goals; 1.) Improving science and increasing transparency; 2.) Incentivizing voluntary conservation efforts; 3.) Focusing resources to achieve more success; and 4.) Engaging the States. PLC and NCBA are supportive of these goals



and appreciate this positive action by the Services. We look forward to the Services' working with Congress to pass legislation that would enshrine these positive changes and give them the weight of law.

A sixty day comment period will open once the proposed rule is published in the Federal Register. PLC and NCBA will be working with and through our coalition, the National Endangered Species Act Reform Coalition ([NESARC](#)), to develop comments.

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### **PLC/NCBA Submit Comments on BLM Survey**

On May 11<sup>th</sup>, the Public Lands Council and National Cattlemen's Beef Association submitted [comments](#) on the BLM Proposed Collection of Information on Wild Horses and Burros, Knowledge and Values Study. Our comments reflected the comments made by our coalition, the [National Horse and Burro Rangeland Management Coalition](#) (NHBRMC).

Through our comments, PLC and NCBA pointed out that while the focus group and interview guides do cite complex background and management challenges that the program faces, they ultimately fail to establish an understanding of the extent to which wild horse and burro populations exceed appropriate management level (AML). Further, the exercises exclude viable management options such as humane euthanasia, or the full title sale of horses. Our comments made it abundantly clear that any management option must include information on how long it will take to reach AML of fewer than 27,000 animals.

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### **PLC/ASI Submit Comments on DOL Proposed Changes to H-2A**

On May 29<sup>th</sup>, the Public Lands Council and American Sheep Industry Association (ASI) submitted [comments](#) on the Department of Labor's (DOL) proposal to change the special procedures of the sheepherder and livestock worker programs.

PLC and ASI's comments focus on two of the top changes in the proposal – wage and job definition. Since the 1950's H-2A Special Procedures have allowed monthly wage rates for livestock herders due to the nature of their work schedule. Herders have also been allowed to live in wagons, trailers, and other mobile housing that is necessary when herding on open range, and due to the fact that herders must be with the sheep at all times in order to move them across large expanses or range to prevent overgrazing and to protect the herd from predators. Finally the procedures allow herders to stay in the United States for longer periods of time than farm-based H-2A workers to ensure herd safety.

Should DOL's proposed changes be finalized, most of the sheep ranches employing H-2A herders will find the program unaffordable or unavailable to them. PLC and ASI urge the Department of Labor to consider the input of stakeholders moving forward.

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### **Secretary Jewell Announces Comprehensive Rangeland Fire Strategy to Restore & Protect Sagebrush Lands**

In February, we reported on Department of the Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's [Secretarial Order 3336, Rangeland Fire Prevention, Management and Restoration](#).

[Initial reports](#) on the strategic plans were required to be completed by March 1<sup>st</sup>, with the [final report](#) to be completed by May 1<sup>st</sup>. The final report focuses on reducing the size, severity and cost of

rangeland fires, addressing the spread of cheatgrass and other invasive species that exacerbate the threat of fire, and positioning fire management resources for more effective rangeland fire response. The final report delineates a series of actions that federal and state wildland fire managers and their partners can take to improve efforts to prevent and suppress rangeland fires as well as restore burned rangelands to healthy landscapes. Projects include invasive weed treatments, fuel breaks, juniper encroachment projects, sagebrush replanting, seed collection and post-fire rehabilitation efforts. The management plan also includes:

- Designing and implementing integrated fire response plans for all Interior wildland firefighting agencies that prioritize protection of rural communities and landscapes most at-risk to the detrimental impacts of rangeland fire and invasive species, while recognizing human life as always the highest priority;
- Applying current research to better target funding and other resources to specific high value rangelands, based on relative resilience and resistance to disturbance, and consistent with efforts on tribal, state, and other lands;
- Making better use of maps and technology to get information about priority areas for fire suppression in the hands of fire managers and firefighters on the ground;
- Developing new tools to fight the spread of non-native, invasive species like cheatgrass that contribute to the increased threat and intensity of rangeland fires;
- Directing better coordination between resource managers and firefighters to ensure that preventive measures like fuel breaks, suppression efforts, and restoration strategies provide the greatest benefit to communities and wildlife;
- Increasing the collection and use of native seeds and plants to restore fire-impacted lands and accelerating efforts to use existing funding to re-vegetate landscapes scarred by fire;
- Expanded training and use of veterans, rural and volunteer fire departments, and Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs) to increase capacity for fire response;
- Planning fire prevention and restoration efforts at a landscape level to expedite planning and analysis and reduce delays in getting essential land treatments underway; and
- Identifying opportunities to enhance tribal, state, and local fire management capabilities and coordination in priority sage-steppe areas.

PLC is pleased to see the Secretary recognize the threat posed by wildfire to sage grouse and other species, as well as the important role that ranchers play in reducing the risk of wildfire.

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### **WOTUS Finalization**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its final Waters of the United States rule on Wednesday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The finalized rule strips private property rights and adds hundreds of thousands of stream miles and acres of land to federal jurisdiction. Agriculture and the livestock industry were never given a seat at the table. From the beginning, the rule was written to be ambiguous, leaving plenty of room for interpretation. Over one million comments were submitted when the comment period closed on November 14, 2014. It is highly unlikely that the EPA had enough time to read each comment, respond and incorporate any changes before the final rule was released—as required by law.

PLC continues to strongly support the *Federal Water Quality Protection Act*, [S. 1140](#), introduced in the Senate by Senator John Barrasso (R-Wyo.) which would repeal the WOTUS proposal. PLC also supported the *Regulatory Integrity Protection Act* ([H.R. 1732](#)), a similar bill to S. 1140 that would also require the WOTUS rule to be withdrawn. H.R. 1732 was introduced by Rep. Bill Shuster (R-Penn.) and passed on May 12, 2015. On May 1, the U.S. House passed [H.R. 2028](#), the FY 2016 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, which included a rider that prohibits the Army Corps of Engineers from implementation or enforcement of the WOTUS rule.



PLC is still in the process of reviewing the details of the final rule; however we firmly believe that the only way to move forward is for the EPA to start over in an open and transparent manner, allowing all stakeholders a seat at the table to ensure clarity and certainty. We also continue to call on Congress to pass legislation clearly defining the Clean Water Act to return the legislation to its original intent – covering only navigable waters.

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### **EPA WOTUS Lobbying**

Obama administration officials are being accused of improperly lobbying to solicit public support for the controversial Waters of the United States (WOTUS), which was finalized on Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>.

The EPA used the internet, social media and other environmental groups to spread positive information about the then-proposed rule during the comment period to increase support for the rule while countering the strong opposition from Republicans and various industries, including the livestock industry. The Justice Department specifically limits grassroots lobbying efforts by executive branch officials directed at the public with the intention of persuading them to contact their elected officials.

“The EPA has been spending taxpayer dollars employing a grassroots lobbying campaign, hiding information, dismissing concerns from stakeholders, and holding closed-door meetings with environmental activists,” said Brenda Richards, Idaho rancher and Public Lands Council president. “There is no question that this rule will infringe on private property rights and usurp state authority over land and water use. Ambiguous language included will only serve to further jam courtrooms across the country with jurisdictional challenges.”

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## **JUDICIARY UPDATE**

### **Forest Planning Rule Motion for Reconsideration Denied**

In the [March/April 2015](#) newsletter, we reported that the multiple use industry’s challenge of the U.S. Forest Service 2012 Planning Rule had been dismissed by Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson of the Federal District Court for the District of Columbia. PLC and the other multiple use groups filed a motion for reconsideration and clarification, which was promptly denied. The Court found that industry had failed to identify any adequate grounds for the Court to reconsider its original ruling, meaning that no new evidence or proof of harm was provided.

Moving forward, PLC and the other multiple-use industries will continue to fight against this rule, whether it be through the courts or Congress. We are continuing to review whether an appeal is our best option at this time or waiting until the unlawful rule is used to make decisions on the ground.

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### **Win for Grazing in Ninth Circuit Court**

The livestock industry has made a win in the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Western Watersheds Project and Center for Biological Diversity had challenged the U.S. Forest Service for renewing grazing permits on two allotments in Arizona. The Ninth Circuit decision bolsters the livestock industry’s position that full-blown review under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) need not take place on every 10-year permit renewal.

The Ninth Circuit unanimously affirmed the arguments of the Arizona Cattle Growers’ Association, PLC, and a private ranch, all of whom had intervened in the case. The livestock groups had posited

that the grazing permits had been reviewed under the “categorical exclusion” section of NEPA, which allows an action to go forward if it does not “individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment.” Such actions, therefore, need neither an “environmental assessment” nor an “environmental impact statement,” documents that require lengthy analysis and open the proposed action to public review and comment.

The Ninth Circuit’s order is short, and relies mostly on deference to the Forest Service’s decision. The court also noted the Forest Service’s land and resource management plan includes not only the objective of maintaining soil and watershed conditions, but also to “[p]roduce the maximum amount of forage, consistent with other resource values, for use by wildlife and livestock on a sustained yield basis.” This decision bolsters the Forest Service’s ‘multiple-use’ mandate to manage not just for ecological conditions, but for productivity and human use. Though the court’s order will not be published, thereby limiting the decision’s precedent-setting value, the order is still a positive development for grazing rights.

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## **Upcoming Events**

- **NCBA Summer Conference:** July 15-18, 2015, Denver, CO ([click here](#))
- **PLC Annual Conference:** September 9- 12, Cody, WY ([click here](#))
- **NCBA Convention:** January 27-29, 2016, San Diego, CA ([click here](#))
- **ASI Annual Convention:** January 27-30, 2016, Scottsdale, AZ (details to come)

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## **Nick Theos PLC Scholarship**

As reported in [April 2013](#), Nick Theos, a founding member of PLC and great supporter of the livestock industry, passed away on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at the age of 92. The Theos family has requested that memorial donations be made to PLC; all such donations will go to the newly-created Nick Theos PLC Scholarship Program. The Scholarship will enable young people to attend our annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. PLC kicked off the scholarship with an initial \$500, and since then the donations have been steadily coming in. The running total to date exceeds \$3,500. We are very grateful for the generosity of:

Brice Lee  
Charlie Wynn and Toula Theos  
Colorado Wool Growers Association  
Colorado PLC  
Daryl Bonyor Resources  
Dean and Sharon Rhoads  
Elena and Zoie Theos  
Etchart Livestock, Inc.  
Jean Brown Living Trust  
Jim Magagna  
Joe and Margaret S. Hinson  
John Cheney  
John and Sheryl Etchart  
Julie Hansmire  
Harper Livestock  
Megiel and Rome Inda  
Mike Harper Livestock  
Nick and Toni Sampinos  
Pole Mountain Cattlemen’s Association

Reuben and Stephanie Oldland  
Sharon Klinglesmith  
Skye and Penny Krebs  
Vermillion Ranch LTD

Everyone who knew Nick knew his passion for involving younger generations in PLC's activities in order to ensure the industry's future vitality. We are sure he would be proud to know he is still contributing in this way to PLC's and industry's success. Donations to the Nick Theos PLC Scholarship may be sent to:

Public Lands Council  
1301 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20004

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### **Keep in Touch with Us**

To receive directly from us PLC's new releases, calls to action, and this newsletter, or to receive only this newsletter, email Marci Schlup at [mschlup@beef.org](mailto:mschlup@beef.org). We've also started an official blogspot for PLC. Click "follow" at the [blog website](#). Also, find us on [Facebook](#), check out our [Op-Ed archives](#) page, and visit [www.publiclandscouncil.org](http://www.publiclandscouncil.org) for news releases, video and audio clips, issue pages, PLC events, and more.

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### **PLC's Sage Grouse Database**

For peer reviewed research, legal information and state/regional plans on grazing and Sage Grouse, visit our database at: [www.grazingforgrouse.com](http://www.grazingforgrouse.com).

### **American Sheep Industry Association News**

Go to [www.sheepindustrynews.org](http://www.sheepindustrynews.org).

### **Link to IBLA Decisions**

To find the decisions of the Interior Board of Land Appeals over the last three months, [click here](#).

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