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Public Lands Council



Capital Issues

~November/December 2014~

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EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

From the Other Side of the Fence (Washington, D.C.)

Wow, what a close to the year! As we “travel to grandma’s” for Christmas and prepare for a new year, our industry can look back at the preceding two months and be thankful and take comfort in the fact that we’re moving in the right direction. From an election in early November that sent a strong message to DC, to the Defense bill and funding package including many priority provisions for western ranchers, I can’t help but feel that we have moved our offense onto the field for the first time in recent years!

You will read details below on the Grazing Improvement Act provisions included in the National Defense Authorization Act; however, I’d ask every one of you to pat yourself on the back, for it was an industry effort to see our multiple-year priority legislation pass Congress and be signed into law – making it the first time in years that the grazing provisions of FLPMA have been amended. I was recently told that passing legislation in this Congress, which will be known for their ability to name post offices, is something to be proud of – I know I am, as should our entire industry. If my analysis of the importance of these amendments to FLPMA aren’t enough, I would suggest Googling ‘NDAA & Grazing’, you will find many articles illustrating the hysteria and apoplectic responses from radical anti-grazing groups making claims that will be sure to prove how much industry has done to protect our property rights on public lands.

Following passage of the grazing bill provisions in the defense bill, we saw Congress pass an omnibus funding package which includes many of the priorities we worked on over the past year. It includes a provision blocking funds from being spent to list the sage grouse; full funding for agency range budgets; and a rejection of the President’s proposed \$1/AUM tax on grazing fees. The new session of Congress will be underway soon and shortly thereafter will begin drafting funding bills for FY 16 – we’ll be on Capitol Hill protecting your rights and working to curtail the continued stream of regulations flowing from the Administration.

As PLC gears up for the new session of Congress, we have been meeting with staff of the incoming Committee Chairs to ensure our priorities are on their radar early. It is great for industry to see Representative Rob Bishop from Utah take the gavel of the House Committee on Natural Resources. He is a strong supporter and ally of ranchers. Mr. Bishop plans to make oversight of federal agency regulation a priority. We welcome this news and plan to offer industry’s assistance at all turns. Further, Representative Jason Chaffetz of Utah will claim the gavel of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. Another strong supporter of ranchers, Mr. Chaffetz has created a subcommittee to focus solely on Environment and Interior oversight. PLC will be attending many “open houses” on the Hill in early January to meet with staff and new members of Congress. I encourage you to reach out to your representative and senate offices (new or returning), as many staff positions are seeing turnover.

While our offense is on the field and we’ve recently put some points on the board, there remain many challenges ahead. Our industry must continue to work through Congress to defend our rights and protect our businesses against the outside interests that wish us gone. PLC will be focused on ESA reform, NEPA reform, EAJA reform, Antiquities Act reform, wild horse and burro program reform, and litigation/appeals reform along with many other issues over the coming year. Through perseverance we can succeed. After all, we’ve got over a century at our backs, and the modern “environmental” movement only came along in the 70s.

Finally, while in Utah for the West-Central States Wool Growers Convention I was humbled and honored to receive the Utah Wool Grower’s 2014 Friend of the Sheepmen award. I want to thank the sheep producers in Utah for their generous recognition. It is an honor to work on behalf of an industry my family has been a part of for generations. I must admit it seems peculiar to get recognized for doing work one enjoys, but I’m nonetheless grateful!

Merry Christmas and happy Holidays to all. We’ll see you next year.

Dustin Van Liew
Executive Director

-Your voice in Washington, D.C.

HIGHLIGHT

PLC Priority Legislation Signed into Law

--Part of FY 15 Spending Agreement

On Friday, December 12th and Saturday, December 13th, the U.S. Senate followed the House in passing fiscal year 2015 spending legislation. PLC supported both the [defense bill](#) and the “[cromnibus](#)” for the important grazing language they included.

The National Defense Authorization Act, which passed Friday, included a public lands package that was negotiated by the Senate and House Committees on Energy and Natural Resources over the previous few weeks. PLC worked with Committee staff and the offices of Senator John Barrasso (R-WY) and Representative Raul Labrador (R-OD) to include provisions of our priority legislation, the Grazing Improvement Act (GIA).

[National Defense Authorization Act](#) public land provisions:

- Amends Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), including codifying the “grazing rider” which ensures permits will be reissued while the agencies undergo National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other analysis. Industry believes the language will also address a federal judge’s recent ruling that the grazing rider does not cover analysis under FLPMA (only NEPA). By directly amending FLPMA, it is clear Congress does not intend for permits to lapse due to any regulatory paperwork backlog.
- FLPMA was also amended to bolster the agencies’ statutory authority to categorically exclude grazing decisions from full NEPA analysis in certain cases. Specifically, categorical exclusions may apply where current grazing management continues and the land is meeting applicable range health standards—or, if they are not meeting those standards due to something other than livestock grazing.
- The law provides general authority to categorically exclude trailing and crossing decisions from full NEPA.
- The law amends FLPMA so as to apply any environmental analysis to the ground (as opposed to permits as is the current BLM practice).
- The law allows multiple allotments to be analyzed at one time.
- The law gives the Secretaries sole discretion to set the priority and timing of environmental analysis completion regarding grazing permit decisions, based on environmental significance and available funding.
- Of important note, the law does NOT include any language allowing for retirement of grazing in any state. The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee had added such language with regard to New Mexico and Oregon. In negotiations on the defense bill between the Senate and House, this language was removed.
- In addition to the grazing provisions, there were provisions that added and/or expanded wilderness areas in Colorado, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, and Washington. Eight national parks were created, as were other “conservation” areas. We oppose such designations by-and-large. We also note that special language was included in the Wilderness provisions to bolster protection for grazing in most of the wilderness sections – something PLC worked on with the House Committee.
- Several Wilderness Study Areas were also released, meaning they should be returned to multiple-use management.
 - It is important to note that many of the land bills included in the package had moved through one or both chambers and many provisions had bipartisan support. Additionally, PLC was not privy to the extent of the package until it was released publically – remaining only focused on the grazing provisions.

The “[cromnibus](#)” (a “continuing resolution”—or “CR”—mixed with 11 spending bills lumped together into an omnibus bill) passed Saturday, providing funding for most departments through September 2015. (The sole exception was for Department of Homeland Security, which will only be funded through February so that Congress may deal with President Obama’s recent executive order regarding illegal immigration.) The grazing provisions in the 2015 Omnibus Appropriations bill:

- *Sage grouse*: The law delays the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s (FWS) listing decision on the greater sage grouse and Washington State’s Columbia basin subpopulation. Although details are unclear, the law may also roll back the “threatened” listings of the Nevada/California “bi-state” subpopulation and the Gunnison sage grouse in Colorado and Utah. The law also includes \$15 million for BLM to spend on “sage grouse conservation” efforts.
- *EPA*: The law cuts the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) budget. It also requires EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers to withdraw the “Interpretive Rule” a rule which would have had the effect of turning the Natural Resources Conservation Service into an enforcement agency for Clean Water Act jurisdictional questions. Unfortunately, the bill does not block the entire proposed “waters of the U.S.” rule. Other provisions in the bill would continue to block EPA from requiring livestock producers to report “greenhouse gas” emissions or obtain permits under the Clean Air Act.
- *Range Budgets*: The range/grazing management budgets for the BLM and U.S. Forest Service will both remain level with the Fiscal year 14 allocations, providing the necessary resources for the agencies to continue working through the backlog of NEPA analysis and respond to litigation pressure being brought by radical environmental groups. These allocations run contrary to the President’s proposal to drastically reduce funding for the federal range programs.
- *Grazing Fee*: The law does not include the arbitrary increase in the grazing fee requested by the President. The proposed \$1/AUM fee on top of the current market based fee would have cost an estimated total of \$6.5 million and \$5 million for BLM and the USFS permittees, respectively.
- *PILT*: Combined with the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 15, Payment in Lieu of Taxes is funded in the full amount of \$442 million. Secure Rural Schools funding was not included, but is expected to be addressed in the first three months of the new Congress.
- *Wolf depredation*: The Fish and Wildlife Service was also allocated \$1 million in compensations for livestock loss due to wolves.
- *Wildfire*: Also allocated was \$3.5 billion for wildfire fighting and preventions programs within the Department of Interior and the USFS, \$526 million for hazardous fuels reduction activities, and \$65 million for the acquisition of aircraft to enhance firefighting capacity. PLC continues to follow this issue and will work with the next Congress to put more focus on forest management and fire prevention, rather than continue with the runaway federal spending on wildfire suppression.

Also of note, the Senate’s final action this lame duck session was to follow the House in approving a tax extenders package. That included the extension of bonus depreciation and Section 179, which provides a higher deduction level for some capital expenditures, like machinery and equipment. The extension was largely retroactive and will only apply through December 2014, so the issue will need to be revisited in 2015.

Legislators will get to work as early as March on fiscal year 2016 appropriations bills, which will need to be finalized by the end of September 2015. PLC is encouraged by industry’s gains in this appropriations cycle and will remain engaged moving into the FY16 cycle.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Congressional Committee Assignments

The House and Senate leadership have announced some of their assignments to the various Committees and some Chairs/Ranking Member assignments. Republicans will replace Democrats as Chairs in the Senate. Some relevant committee leadership positions are listed below. We will provide an update in next month's newsletter.

Senate:

- Energy and Natural Resources: Chair - Lisa Murkowski (R-AK); Ranking Member - Maria Cantwell (D-WA)
- Appropriations: Chair - Thad Cochran (R-MS); Ranking Member - Barbara Mikulski (D-MD)
- Agriculture and Nutrition: Chair - Pat Roberts (R-KS); Ranking Member - Debbie Stabenow (D-MI)
- Judiciary: Chair- Chuck Grassley (R-IA); Ranking Member - Pat Leahy (D-VT)

House:

- Natural Resources: Chair – Rob Bishop (R-UT)
- Oversight and Government Reform: Chair – Jason Chaffetz (R-UT)
- Agriculture: Chair - Mike Conaway (R-Texas)

Congress Releases Study Questioning ESA Science

House Natural Resources Committee majority staff released a report that questions the independence and accountability of the peer review process in recent Endangered Species Act (ESA) listing decisions. The report, entitled, "[Under the Microscope: An examination of the questionable science and lack of independent peer review in Endangered Species Act listing decisions](#)" studies the federal government's peer review process for 13 different ESA listing decisions made by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) since July 2013. The report found numerous examples of potential bias and conflicts of interests with the peer reviewers and a lack of transparency and consistency in the peer review process.

Specific findings of the report include:

- The FWS does not have clear or consistent policies and procedures in place across all Regions to ensure that peer reviewers with potential conflicts of interest are identified and screened;
- The FWS generally seeks peer review of its proposed listing decisions at the same time they are made available for public comment, rather than earlier in the process when the peer reviewers may have more meaningful input;
- The FWS regularly recruits the same scientists on whose work a listing decision is based to serve as peer reviewers, including those who have known policy positions or affiliations with advocacy groups that support the listing decision, rather than truly independent scientists;
- The FWS uses scientists as peer reviewers who have received grants or other financial assistance from the Department of the Interior and its bureaus and other agencies; and
- The FWS routinely withholds from the public the identities of peer reviewers, qualifications of peer reviewers, and details about their comments.

These findings are likely to contribute to ESA reform efforts in the 114th session of Congress. Representative Rob Bishop (R-Utah), the incoming chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, has indicated to PLC that ESA reform will be a top priority.

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PLC Legislation Tracker

The following is a list of PLC-supported legislation introduced this Congress. Click the links to see the bills' progress:

Note – these bills will cease at the end of the year and the new Congress will have to reintroduce in the new session, PLC will be working with the bill sponsors to advance these ideas in the 114th session.

Top Priority:

- ~~Grazing Improvement Act~~ ([S. 258](#) and [H.R. 657](#))

Water Regulation:

- Water Rights Protection Act ([H.R. 3189](#) and [S. 1630](#))
- Silviculture Regulatory Consistency Act of 2013 ([H.R. 2026](#) and [S. 971](#))

EAJA/Judgment Fund Oversight:

- Judgment Fund Transparency Act ([H.R. 317](#) and [S. 1420](#))
- Open Book on Equal Access to Justice Act ([H.R. 2919](#))

Federal Land Disposal:

- Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act Reauthorization ([S. 368](#) and [H.R. 2068](#))
- Land Disposal and Efficiency Act ([H.R. 2095](#))

Wildfire and Forestry:

- Restoring Healthy Forests for Healthy Communities Act ([H.R. 1526](#))
- Catastrophic Wildfire Prevention Act ([H.R. 1345](#) and [S. 1479](#))
- Good Neighbor Forestry Act ([S. 327](#))
- Healthy Forest Management and Wildfire Prevention Act ([H.R. 1526](#))
- Wildfire Disaster Funding Act ([H.R. 3992](#) and [S. 1875](#))
- Federal Land Assistance, Management and Enhancement Act (FLAME Act) ([S. 2593](#))

Monument Designation Oversight:

- Ensuring Public Involvement in the Creation of National Monuments Act ([H.R. 1459](#))
- National Monument Designation Transparency and Accountability Act ([H.R. 2192](#))
- Preserve Land Freedom For Americans Act ([H.R. 382](#))

ESA Improvement:

- Endangered Species Act Settlement Reform Act ([S. 19](#) and [H.R. 1314](#))
- 21st Century Endangered Species Transparency Act ([H.R. 4315](#))
- Endangered Species Improvement Act of 2014 ([H.R. 4256](#))
- Endangered Species Recovery Transparency Act ([H.R. 4316](#))
- State, Tribal and Local Species Transparency and Recovery Act ([H.R. 4317](#))
- Endangered Species Litigation Reasonableness Act ([H.R. 4318](#))
- Community Protection Act ([S. 2084](#))
- Common Sense in Species Protection Act of 2014 ([H.R. 4319](#))

Other:

- Regulations from the Executive In Need of Scrutiny Act (REINS) Act ([S. 15](#) and [H.R. 367](#))
- Livestock Disaster Protection Act ([H.R. 1607](#))
- Sunshine for Regulatory Decrees and Settlements Act ([S. 714](#) and [H.R. 1493](#))
- National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act ([H.R. 2398](#))
- Federal Lands Invasive Species Control, Prevention and Management Act ([H.R. 3994](#))
- Commonsense Legislative Exceptional Events Reform (CLEER) Act (S. 2526)

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ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE

Gunnison Sage Grouse Update

On November 12th the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service determined that the Gunnison Sage-Grouse is a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. PLC is adamantly opposed to the listing. The population is documented to be stable overall, and extensive conservation efforts have been made by the state and local governments, tribes, and private landowners of Colorado and Utah to avoid the listing. This listing discourages voluntary conservation efforts and violates trust built between FWS and the regulated community.

Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper and the Colorado Attorney General's office filed a notice of intent to sue with Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and FWS Wildlife Service Director Dan Ashe, arguing that FWS' decision to list the Gunnison as threatened was flawed and failed to appreciate the full impact of aggressive state and local conservation efforts. PLC supports Gov. Hickenlooper's decision.

When we look at the listing of the Gunnison sage grouse, the natural concern for many is that the Greater Sage Grouse listing decision may mirror it. Fortunately, the FY 2015 spending legislation prohibits FWS from using any funding to list the Greater Sage Grouse as threatened or endangered through September 2015. This is encouraging, as it shows the intent of Congress to allow the state and local conservation programs to work. Language was also included regarding the Gunnison sage grouse, although it is unclear at this time what effect it will have on that specie's listing.

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Mexican Wolf Update

PLC will join Arizona Cattle Growers' Association and National Cattlemen's Beef Association this month (by Dec. 27) in commenting on U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) [final planning document](#) to revise the Mexican wolf's "nonessential experimental population" status under Section 10(j) of the Endangered Species Act. In previously submitted [comments](#), we criticized FWS' inadequate Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and draft proposed rule. Despite our comments, FWS has [finalized the EIS](#) without addressing our concerns—and has released an equally flawed [draft record of decision](#).

The intent of Section 10(j) is that flexibility may be given to the species' management. But the Proposed Rule eliminates any restriction or limit on the size of the wolf population; increases the area that Mexican wolf population can occupy from 6,845 acres to more than 90 million acres; increases the area into which Mexican wolves can be translocated from 6,845 acres to more than 50 million acres; increases the area in which Mexican wolves can be released from 700,000 acres to more than 8 million acres; and allows Mexican wolves to disperse throughout and occupy the entire Mexican wolf experimental population area, with the sole exception of tribal trust land.

Also this month, Arizona Cattle Growers (ACGA) and PLC disputed claims that funding from the “Mexican Wolf/Livestock Coexistence Council” was “successful” in addressing producers’ concerns with losses surrounding wolf presence. Although some Arizona and New Mexico producers are being offered payments, ACGA executive Patrick Bray says the \$85,000 distributed this year was grossly inadequate. He added there is no dedicated source of funding, so money will likely dry up. Also, the process by which to obtain payment is cumbersome and does not come close to addressing the loss of livestock or the stress associated with wolf presence.

“The Council even told us they want *us* to help hunt down money for the payments,” said Bray. “Here we are trying to push back against the broken wolf recovery program, and they’re asking us to help fund ‘coexistence.’”

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ESA Candidate List Released for 2014

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) this month released the [Candidate Notice of Review](#), a yearly status appraisal of plants and animals that are candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Species are given different rankings in terms of “urgency” of listing, and “threats” are identified. Grazing is mentioned throughout. There are now 146 species recognized by FWS as candidates for ESA listing. FWS is now soliciting additional information on these species and “others that may warrant ESA protection” as they prepare listing documents and/or revisions to the Candidate Notice of Review.

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Yellowstone Bison Petitioned for Listing

Western Watersheds Project and Buffalo Field Campaign have submitted a petition to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to list the Yellowstone bison under the Endangered Species Act. The petition states that Yellowstone bison are a distinct population segment of the Plains bison and are critical to the survival of the species. This is not the first time a petition has been submitted on behalf of the species. Two petitions have been submitted since 1999, and both were rejected for lack of “substantial information.”

A plan to manage the Yellowstone bison was put into place by Yellowstone National Park almost 15 years ago, with a population target of 3,000 to 3,500 bison. The latest estimates put the herd population at over 4,000 bison, but WWP and the Buffalo Field Campaign don’t think that is good enough. The petition lists “threats” that the Yellowstone bison face. Topping that list, according to the petitioners, is removal from their range to facilitate livestock grazing. This makes it very clear that WWP is less concerned about the health of the Yellowstone bison population than they are accomplishing their #1 goal – eliminating livestock grazing from public lands.

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JUDICIAL UPDATE

Wyoming State Wild Horse Lawsuit

The State of Wyoming has [filed suit](#) against the Department of Interior and BLM over the federal government’s failure to appropriately manage wild horses in Wyoming. BLM earlier this year estimated there were 3,771 wild horses in Wyoming. In its lawsuit, Wyoming claims the horse population exceeds appropriate levels in seven herd management areas by about 475 total horses. “The lawsuit asks the court to force the BLM to manage wild horses in Wyoming as required by the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act (“Act”),” Governor Matt Mead said. The Act requires the BLM to manage wild horses below previously set “appropriate management levels” and to

remove excess horses when populations exceed those levels. The Act also gives the BLM the authority to humanely dispose of excess horses, although Congress has prohibited this with annual appropriations language for several years.

In related news, the Western Governors' Association passed a [resolution](#) on the topic at its December meeting in Las Vegas stating that federal agencies' inability to control the growth of the wild horse and burro populations is an urgent concern for "management policy and practice."

"We support thoughtful, appropriate and science-based management decisions for wild horse and burro management. In particular, we support management decisions that ensure populations are managed within AMLs in order to promote horse and burro herd health, species conservation and recovery, and habitat, as well as forage vitality for wild and domestic species," the resolution states.

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Utah Prairie Dog Ruling: Win for Private Property Rights

In a win for property rights, a district court in Utah held that the federal prohibition against taking Utah prairie dogs (which are listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act (ESA)) on private property exceeds the scope of federal power. Judge Doc Benson summarized his conclusion by saying, "Although the Commerce Clause authorizes Congress to do many things, it does not authorize Congress to regulate takes of a purely intrastate species that has no substantial effect on interstate commerce. Congress similarly lacks authority through the Necessary and Proper Clause because the regulation of takes of Utah prairie dogs is not essential or necessary to the ESA's economic scheme." The decision is precedent setting. The question has arisen at the circuit court level, but this is the first time that a federal court has said that private land is out of regulatory reach under the ESA.

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MORE NEWS

States Release Federal Land Transfer Feasibility Studies

Nevada, Utah and Idaho have released studies exploring the costs and benefits of transferring multiple-use federal lands to the respective state.

The [study](#) commissioned by the Nevada legislature found that, if all federal lands except Wilderness and National Conservation Areas were transferred to the state, the total annual revenue to the state could range between \$56 million and \$206 million. The extensive report recommended transferring the federal lands in phases, starting with checkerboard lands.

The recent Idaho [study](#) found the State of Idaho could potentially see a loss of \$111 million/year or, at best, a net gain of \$24 million/year. However, some critics call the 20-page report "incomplete." To estimate wildfire suppression costs, the study uses the cost of suppression on federal land as the benchmark--instead of the cost of suppression on state land. This neglects the potential improved management the state government would do on now-federal lands, which would lead to lower fire suppression costs and more revenues. The report also excludes grazing, minerals, and energy as income generators for the state, instead only focusing on revenue from expected timber sales.

Utah's [study](#) found that revenues from the public lands in question would likely be more than enough to cover the costs of operations, after the first few years of adjusting. An extensive analysis of the economic contributions of current federal land grazing was done (grazing on federal lands was estimated to contribute \$110 million annually to gross state product.) Also, the study explored

different scenarios for the grazing fee, ranging from the current \$1.35 to \$7.34. The study states, “The rationale for including a scenario at the higher rate is the assumption that the state will take action to improve the overall health and quality of its rangelands and forests, thereby justifying the higher AUM fee.”

Upcoming Events

- **ASI Convention:** January 28-31, 2015 ([click here](#) for info)
- **NCBA Convention:** February 4-7, 2015, San Antonio, TX ([click here](#))
- **PLC/NCBA Legislative Conference:** March 23-26, 2015, Washington, DC

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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 11th, 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 Toulia 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 Klingle Smith
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. 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 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.

American Sheep Industry Association News

Go to 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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