

BLM state offices	Address	Phone numbers
Utah .....	324 South State Street, P.O. Box 45155 Salt Lake City, UT 84145-0155.	(801) 539-4010
Wyoming .....	5353 Yellowstone Road, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, WY 82003.	(307) 775-6001
Washington DC .....	1849 C Street NW., Washington DC 20040 .....	(202) 452-7749

If you have Internet access, you can download the FEIS by going to <http://www.blm.gov/grazing> and follow the directions found at that site.

During the nine years since implementation of the 1995 grazing reforms, a number of discrete concerns have been raised regarding the administration of grazing management. The purpose of the rulemaking is to address a variety of these discrete issues related to the current regulatory scheme without altering the fundamental structure of the grazing regulations. In other words, we are adjusting rather than conducting a major overhaul of the grazing regulations. Fundamental changes such as modifications to the grazing fee provisions; the addition of new regulatory topics; or the removal of substantial portions of the regulations do not meet this limited purpose.

The key amendments of the regulations governing grazing administration are intended to: make clear that BLM managers will document their consideration of the relevant social, cultural, and economic consequences of decisions affecting grazing, consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969; allow the BLM and a grazing permittee to share title of certain permanent range improvements—such as a fence, well, or pipeline—if they are constructed under what is known as a Cooperative Range Improvement Agreement; phase in livestock grazing decreases (and increases) of more than 10 percent over a five-year period unless a livestock operator agrees to a shorter period, or unless a quicker phase-in is necessary under existing law to protect the land's resources; expand the definition of "grazing preference" to include an amount of forage on public lands attached to a rancher's private "base" property, which can be land or water; require both standards assessments and monitoring of resource conditions to support BLM evaluations of whether an allotment is meeting rangeland health standards; allow up to 24 months, instead of prior to the start of the next grazing season, for the BLM to analyze and formulate an appropriate course of action that will correct a grazing allotment's failure to meet rangeland health standards; remove the current

three-consecutive-year limit on temporary non-use of a grazing permit by allowing livestock operators to apply for non-use for up to one year at a time, whether for conservation or business purposes, with no limit on the number of consecutive years; eliminate, in compliance with Federal court rulings, existing regulatory provisions that allow the BLM to issue long-term "conservation use" permits; make clear how the BLM will authorize grazing if a BLM decision affecting a grazing permit is "stayed" (postponed) pending administrative appeal; clarify that if a livestock operator is convicted of violating a Federal, State, or other law, and if the violation occurs while he is engaged in grazing-related activities, the BLM may take action against his grazing permit or lease only if the violation occurred on the BLM-managed allotment where the operator is authorized to graze; improve efficiency in the BLM's management of public lands grazing by focusing the role of the interested public on planning decisions and reports that influence daily management, rather than on daily management decisions themselves; provide greater flexibility to the Federal government to negotiate with cooperators and States when developing stock water and acquiring livestock water rights by removing the current requirement that the BLM seek ownership of these rights where allowed by state law; clarify that a biological assessment of the BLM, prepared in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, is not a decision of the Bureau and therefore is not subject to protests and appeals; and increase certain service fees to reflect more accurately the cost of grazing administration.

On March 3, 2003, BLM published an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) and Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) in the **Federal Register** (68 FR 9964-9966 and 10030-10032) on proposed revisions to BLM's grazing regulations. These notices requested public comment and input to assist BLM with the scoping process for the proposed rule and the EIS. The comment period on the ANPR and the NOI ended on May 2, 2003.

During the scoping process, BLM held four public meetings to solicit comments and suggestions for the proposed rule and development of the draft environmental impact statement. The meetings were held during March 2003 in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Reno, Nevada; Billings, Montana; and Washington DC BLM received approximately 8,300 comments on the ANPR and the NOI.

The BLM published the proposed rule on December 8, 2003 (68 FR 68452), inviting public comments until February 6, 2004. On January 2, 2004, the BLM issued the Draft EIS for a 60 day public comment period. On January 16, 2004, BLM published a notice to extend the comment period on the proposed rule to March 2, 2004 (69 FR 2559). BLM held six public meetings in January and early February, 2004, to provide the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed rule. Meetings were held in Salt Lake City, Utah; Phoenix, Arizona; Boise, Idaho; Billings, Montana; Cheyenne, Wyoming; and Washington DC. Approximately 250 individuals attended the public meetings and 95 people provided oral comments. We received more than 18,000 comment letters and electronic communications. The BLM reviewed and analyzed all public comments and prepared the Final EIS. It is a full text Final EIS and incorporates responses to the public comments.

**Chad Calvert,**

*Acting Assistant Secretary of the Interior.*

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**BILLING CODE 4310-84-P**

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

**Bureau of Land Management**

[AZ-956-05-1420-BJ]

**Notice of Filing of Plats of Survey; Arizona**

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** The plats of survey described below are scheduled to be officially filed in the Arizona State Office, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix, Arizona,

(30) thirty calendar days from the date of this publication.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**

**The Gila and Salt River Meridian, Arizona**

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the subdivisional lines, the subdivision of sections 8 and 17, and metes-and-bounds survey in section 8, Township 13 North, Range 3 East, accepted January 24, 2005, and officially filed January 28, 2005, for Group 914 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the United States Forest Service.

The plat (2 sheets) representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the subdivisional lines and portions of the subdivision lines within section 22, and metes-and-bounds surveys in section 22, Township 6 North, Range 5 East, accepted May 6, 2005, and officially filed May 12, 2005, for Group 930 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the United States Forest Service.

The plat (5 sheets) representing the dependent resurvey of the fifth standard parallel north (south boundary), a portion of the subdivisional lines, the subdivision of sections 25, 26, 27, 33 and 34 and metes-and-bounds surveys in certain sections, Townships 21 North, Range 8 East, accepted March 4, 2005, and officially filed March 11, 2005 for Group 894 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the National Park Service

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the north boundary, and a portion of the subdivisional lines, and the subdivision of sections 2 and 10, Township 27 North, Range 8 East, accepted March 31, 2005, and officially filed April 6, 2005 for Group 941 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Regional Office.

The plat (3 sheets) representing the dependent resurvey of the east, south and west boundaries, and the subdivisional lines, and a portion of the boundary, Management District No. 6, Hopi Indian Reservation, Township 26 North, Range 15 East, accepted January 4, 2005, and officially filed January 14, 2005 for Group 892 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Region Office and Hopi.

The plat (3 sheets) representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the east and west boundaries, and a portion of the subdivisional lines, Township 31 North, Range 18 East, accepted January 14, 2005, and officially filed January 21, 2005 for Group 896 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Region Office and Hopi.

The plat (2 sheets) representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the south boundary and the survey of the east boundary and the subdivisional lines, Township 26 North, Range 21 East, accepted January 31, 2005 and officially filed February 4, 2005 for Group 898 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Region and Navajo Regional Office.

The plat (3 sheets) representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the fifth guide meridian east (west boundary) and a portion of the Hopi-Navajo partition line, segment "B", and the survey of the south, east, and north boundaries, and the subdivisional lines, Township 27 North, Range 21 East, accepted May 2, 2005 and officially filed May 10, 2005 for Group 895 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Region and Navajo Regional Office.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of the sixth standard parallel north (south boundary), the east, west and north boundaries, and the survey of the subdivisional lines, Township 25 North, Range 26 East, accepted March 29, 2005, and officially filed April 5, 2005 for Group 886 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Regional Office.

The plat (2 sheets) representing the dependent resurvey of the east and west boundaries, and a portion of the subdivisional lines, and the survey of a portion of the subdivisional lines, Township 26 North, Range 26 East, accepted April 20, 2005, and officially filed April 28, 2005 for Group 886 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Regional Office.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of the west boundary, Township 22 North, Range 27 East, accepted March 22, 2005, and officially filed March 29, 2005 for Group 886 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Regional Office.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of the sixth standard parallel north (south boundary), Township 25 North, Range 27 East, accepted March 14, 2005, and officially filed March 18, 2005 for Group 886 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Regional Office.

The plat representing the survey of a portion of the seventh guide meridian east (west boundary), Township 29 North, Range 29 East, and the survey of the seventh standard parallel north (south boundary), Township 29 North, Range 28 East, accepted March 22, 2005, and officially filed March 29, 2005 for Group 902 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Regional Office.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the Arizona-Utah state boundary (north boundary) from the 82 mile post to the 85 mile post, a portion of the south boundary, the west boundary, and a portion of the subdivisional lines, Fractional Township 42 North, Range 2 West, accepted March 14, 2005 and officially filed March 18, 2005 for Group 905 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Region Office.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the subdivisional

lines and the subdivision of section 20, Township 11 North, Range 4 West, accepted February 9, 2005, and officially filed February 16, 2005 for Group 907 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Region Office.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the tenth standard parallel north (north boundary), a portion of the first guide meridian west (west boundary), a portion of the east boundary, and a portion of the subdivisional lines and the subdivision of section 17, Township 40 North, Range 4 West, accepted March 22, 2005, and officially filed March 29, 2005 for Group 908 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Region Office.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the subdivisional lines and the subdivision of sections 15, 23 and 26, Township 18 North, Range 13 West, accepted February 8, 2005, and officially filed February 15, 2005 for Group 904 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Western Region Office.

The plat representing the dependent resurvey of a portion of the east boundary and a portion of the subdivision lines, and the subdivision of sections 12, 13 and 24, and the metes-and-bounds survey of the Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness area, Township 6 South, Range 17 East, accepted April 20, 2005, and officially filed April 28, 2005, for Group 860 Arizona.

This plat was prepared at the request of the Bureau of Land Management.

If a protest against a survey, as shown on any of the above plats is received prior to the date of official filing, the filing will be stayed pending consideration of the protest. A plat will not be officially filed until the day after all protests have been dismissed and become final or appeals from the dismissal affirmed.

A person or party who wishes to protest against any of these surveys must file a written protest with the Arizona State Director, Bureau of Land Management, stating that they wish to protest.

A statement of reasons for a protest may be filed with the notice of protest to the State Director, or the statement of reasons must be filed with the State Director within thirty (30) days after the protest is filed.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**

These plats will be available for inspection in the Arizona State Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1552, Phoenix, Arizona, 85001-1552.

Dated: May 18, 2005.

**Stephen K. Hansen,**  
*Acting Cadastral Chief.*

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