



*For Immediate Release*

## **American Agri-Women opposes the Bureau of Land Management's new mixed language of its multi-use mandate**

Washington, D.C. ([AgPR](#)) June 19, 2023 – [American Agri-Women \(AAW\)](#) opposes the new rule language that defines the nonuse of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land as part of its multi-use mandate.

American Agri-Women believe AGRICULTURE IS CONSERVATION. BLM's new rule could potentially bankrupt ranchers. Many ranches exist because they have grazing allotments. Ranchers can graze their livestock on BLM or Forest Service lands, which makes those ranches economical and improves the land by reducing the fuel loads for wildfires. Animals are critical to the natural biological cycle. Grazing is an essential tool for managing land. If grazing is prohibited, ranchers will go bankrupt, invasive species will take over landscapes, and we will have more catastrophic wildfires. Wildlife will suffer, and multiple uses will become impossible.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) was formed in 1946. Thirty (30) years later, the agency's mission was set with the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). FLPMA gave the BLM its "multiple use mandate." Public land management means public lands have many resources, such as forage, timber, energy, habitat, etc., and public lands have many uses, such as grazing, recreation, mining, etc. The "Multiple use mandate" through FLPMA states that the resources and uses on public land must be utilized in a balanced combination that will best meet the needs of the people.

The Bureau of Land Management published a proposed rule change in the Federal Register on April 3rd, 2023. This rule could effectively eliminate traditionally mandated multiple uses of BLM-managed lands. Under this new rule, 'conservation' would be a 'use' like mining, grazing, or timber. The new language defines nonuse as use and opens leases to be controlled by environmental groups or Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Ranchers could lose their leases because of competition from deep-pocketed environmental groups or NGOs that can now claim priority and compete for leases. Under the new proposed rule for conservation leasing, BLM Lands could be leased by third-party NGOs that could cut off any other uses for decades and will likely become the administration's primary

vehicle for their 30 x 30 initiative.

Prior administrations have used the 1906 Antiquities Act. The 1906 Antiquities Act was created for emergency use for administrations to preserve delicate cultural artifacts and relics with the "smallest area compatible" for protected objects. Recent administrations, however, have abused the century-old law to lock up land and create quasi-national parks without congressional approval. This new rule change makes one wonder if BLM intends to lock up land by prioritizing "conservation leases." It appears their objective is to end all economic use of public lands and stop grazing as a source of conservation management on public lands. It should be noted a recent Supreme Court ruling in Sackett vs. EPA states agencies cannot gift themselves unlimited power.

## About American Agri-Women

American Agri-Women (AAW) is the national coalition of farm, ranch, and agribusiness women's organizations and state and commodity affiliate organizations. AAW's Vision for the 2023 Farm Bill can be found at [www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org). AAW promotes the welfare of our national security through safe and reliable food, fiber and energy supply. Since 1974, AAW members have worked together to educate consumers, advocate for agriculture, and offer networking and professional development opportunities. **Go to the AAW website for more information and to join [www.americanagriwomen.org](http://www.americanagriwomen.org).** Find AAW on social media at: [Facebook.com/AgriWomen/](https://www.facebook.com/AgriWomen/), [Twitter.com/Women4Ag/](https://twitter.com/Women4Ag/) ([@Women4Ag](https://twitter.com/Women4Ag)) and [Instagram.com/americanagriwomen/](https://www.instagram.com/americanagriwomen/) ([@americanagriwomen](https://www.instagram.com/americanagriwomen)). #standupspeakout4ag

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