



File Code: 2210**Date:** March 25, 2020**Route To:****Subject:** FSM 2210 - Grazing Management**To:** Regional Foresters

In our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and our planning efforts for our 2020 operating season, each day brings a greater understanding of the work in front of us. Grazing on National Forest system lands is part of the Nation's food supply and will continue in 2020. We know our grazing community has concerns with potential impacts to their operations from this situation. We want to share some guidance we believe will help limit impacts to our permittees and continue our stewardship work. Our focus is on the safety of our employees and slowing the spread of this virus while we seek ways to reduce impacts to those whose livelihoods depend on using our National Forest System lands. We believe we have the ability to adjust our normal approach to permit management to allow for a normal grazing season.

We ask you to follow the guidance you find in the enclosed document. Strong and regular communication will be the most critical aspect to successfully operating within the constraints we currently have. This guidance is intended to provide maximum flexibility to this important industry by providing different ways of managing our documentation and records, as well as working closer with our permittees to ensure resource conditions are maintained at appropriate levels. We will also be sharing these best practices with national grazing industry groups.

We ask Line Officers to engage as appropriate with their permittees to understand local challenges. In this way, we will work together to ensure we provide both our employees and the dedicated ranchers operating on National Forest System as much safety as possible to reduce their exposure while still supporting continuation of their operations.

X

CHRISTOPHER B. FRENCH
Deputy Chief, National Forest System

Enclosure

