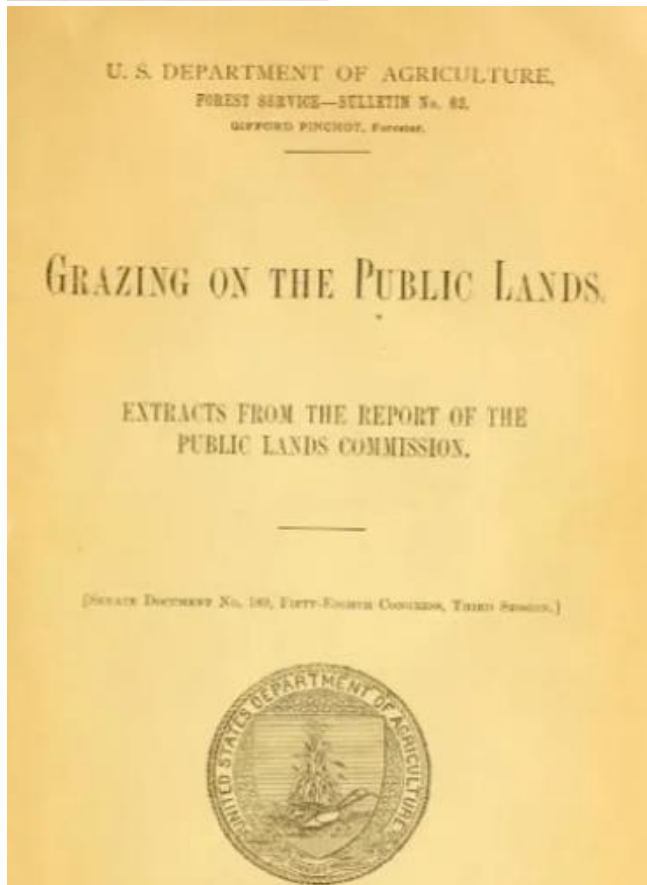
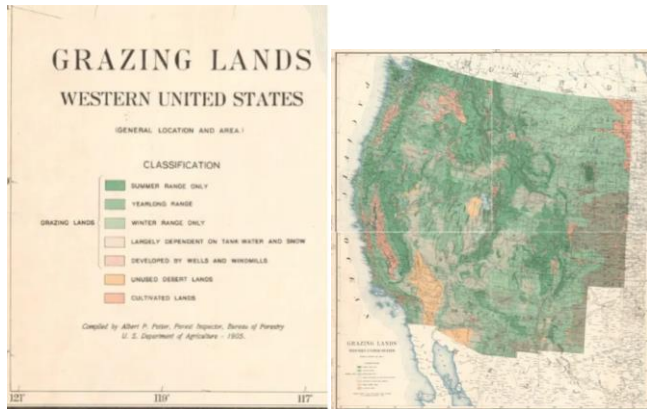


## History of the USFS Grazing Permit



## The USFS Grazing Permit Through a Government Survey to Stockmen

"The Public Lands Commission was appointed by the President October 22, 1903, ...to recommend such changes as are needed to effect the largest practical disposition of the public lands to actual settlers who will build permanent homes upon them, and to secure in permanence the fullest and most effective use of the resources of the public lands"

Pg 7

The range user would have "some right of control by which the range can be kept from destruction by overcrowding

and the controversies over range rights can be satisfactorily eliminated,

the only question being as to the most satisfactory method by which such right may be obtained." Pg 9

"At present the vacant public lands are theoretically open commons, free to all citizens; but, as a matter of fact, a large proportion has been parceled out by more or less definite compacts or agreements among the various interests. These tacit agreements are continually being violated. The sheepmen and cattlemen are in frequent collision because of incursions upon each other's domain. Land which for years has been regarded as exclusive cattle range may be infringed upon by large bands of sheep, forced by drought to migrate. Violence and homicide frequently follow, after which new adjustments are made and matters quiet down for a time. There are localities where the people are utilizing to their own satisfaction the open range, and their demand is to be let alone, so that they may parcel out among themselves the use of the lands; but an agreement made to-day may be broken to-morrow by changing conditions or shifting interests. Pg 8

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ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PUBLIC GRAZING LANDS.

The large majority of the circulars are therefore seen to have been answered by those engaged in raising cattle... Pg 12

Proportionate answers to questions regarding the public grazing lands, received from 1,400 stockmen residing in Western States and Territories.

Reasonable Regulations

Do you favor Government control of the ranges under reasonable regulations, etc.? Pg 14

Yes.	No.
1,000	183

Rigid Enforcement of the Law

What plan would you suggest which would permit bona fide homestead settlements on agricultural lands within a grazing district, etc.? Pg 14

Rigid enforcement of the law.	125
Allow entry by homestead only.	121
Compulsory cultivation of claims.	91
Require all homesteads fenced.	74
Inspection of all claims.	60
Classify the lands.	50
Allow no entry during lease.	14

Individual Pastures

What, in your opinion, is the most practical method for the proper control and permanent improvement of the public grazing lands, etc.? Pg 13

Individual pastures.	282
Community divisions.	253
The development of water.	112
Sell the grazing land.	97
"Let us alone."	64
Irrigation and cultivation.	44
Allow 640-acre homesteads.	34
Reseeding the range.	27
Limit the grazing season.	22

Control of adjoining range through the ownership of ranches has been the most common method of range protection throughout the west, as well as one of the most effective. If a ranchman secures title to the watering places on a range, it has been customary to recognize his claim to the use of the adjoining lands for grazing purposes. In case of controversy, he could fence up the water, and thus prevent stock other than his own from using the range. Pg 16

Forest-reserve regulations have resulted in an improvement in the condition of the summer grazing lands by restricting the number and class of stock allowed in each particular area to a number there was sufficient feed for; by limiting the season during which grazing would be allowed to the time when the forage could be used to the best advantage, and preventing its destruction by reason of the stock entering too early in the season, and by requiring the stock to be handled in a way which would insure the best use of the range. The greatest improvement in condition of the range by forest-reserve control is reported from Utah, where a few years past the greatest opposition to the reserves existed among the stockmen. Through proper management of the summer ranges, it has been demonstrated that the forest reserves are one of the most important factors in securing permanent improvement in the condition of the range, and stockmen are beginning to realize the beneficial results of such control. Pg 17