



“Voice of the Western Slope since 1953”
A coalition of counties, communities, businesses & individuals

(970) 242-3264 ★ FAX (970) 245-8300
P.O. Box 550 ★ Grand Junction, CO 81502-0550
www.club20.org

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GRAZING PERMITS, ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH NEPA

WHEREAS livestock grazing is an important part of the economic, social and cultural landscape of Colorado and

WHEREAS livestock operations in western Colorado are heavily dependent on seasonal grazing of public lands, and

WHEREAS the court ruled in 1995 that all public lands livestock grazing permits were required immediately to be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and

WHEREAS, in response to the court’s decision, Congress passed the Rescission Act which allowed current livestock grazing permits to continue while the Forest Service completed a schedule of reviewing permits to ensure appropriate NEPA compliance, and

WHEREAS the Rescission Act is scheduled to expire in 2008, at which time all grazing permits must be NEPA-compliant or be in jeopardy of being discontinued, and

WHEREAS, as of 2006, the Forest Service estimates that they have completed NEPA documentation on slightly over 50% of all livestock grazing permits and it is unlikely that they will be able to complete the NEPA compliance requirement prior to the expiration of the Rescission Act;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that CLUB 20 urges Congress to take appropriate actions, such as adequate funding, a categorical exclusion or an extension of the Rescission Act, to ensure that livestock grazing on public lands does not become administratively jeopardized due to the Forest Service’s inability to meet mandated NEPA administrative documentation.

Adopted 9/8/06