



Resolution 23-04

Resolution type: National Directive

Opposition to BLM's proposed Public Lands Rule for Conservation Leasing

Submitted by: Phillips CD

1. BACKGROUND DESCRIBING ISSUE *

Please clearly describe the background for the MACD Legislative and Resolutions Committee and **MACD** Board discussion. This is generally where "whereas" statements could go as those are generally background. This information will be kept on file at MACD in our Resolutions Library. The sponsoring district should also keep a copy of the final resolution for their records.

Whereas Montana Conservation Districts' function is "to take available technical, financial, and educational resources, whatever their source, and focus or coordinate them so that they meet the needs of the local land user for conservation of soil, water, and related resources."

Whereas Montana Conservation Districts were created by the Legislature to "...provide for the conservation of soil and soil resources of this state ,.....preserve wildlife, protect the tax base, protect public lands, and protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of this state." "Laws Pertaining to Montana's Conservation Districts 2020 Edition", p. 196-197,76-15-102 Declaration of policy.

Whereas the BLM's proposed rule violates the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976. Specifically, Sec 102 [43 U.S.C.](8) the public lands be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archeological values: that, where appropriate, will preserve and protect certain public lands in their natural condition; that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife and domestic animals; and that will provide for outdoor recreation and human occupancy and use; Sec 102[43 U.S.C.] (12) the public lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands including implementation of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 1876, 30 U.S.C. 21a) as it pertains to the public lands;

Whereas the BLM already has the tools in place to accomplish almost all the goals stated within the proposed rule, i.e., range improvement project agreements, Memorandums of Understanding, exclosures and other agreements.

Whereas this proposal opens the door for special interest groups to remove domestic animals from public lands by acquiring conservation leases and putting the allotment into nonuse. Issuing a conservation permit and not managing the public land to produce minerals, food, timber and fiber is a violation of FLPMA.

2. ACTUAL RESOLUTION TO BE INCLUDED IN NACD POLICY BOOK IF ADOPTED *

Please clearly and concisely, using active verbs, state the specific action(s) expected of NACD; This must be based on fact, avoiding opinions and beliefs; the statement should make sense even without the background. THIS IS GENERALLY WHERE A "THEREFORE" STATEMENT WOULD GO. Please note, this resolution format provided by MACD is very similar to the NACD Resolution format, and much of this information will be directly submitted to NACD. The sponsoring district will be consulted on any edits or reformatting required by NACD.

Therefore, NACD opposes the Bureau of Land Managements proposed Public Lands Rule for Conservation Leasing.

3. SPONSOR(S) ACTIONS TO DATE *

(What has been done to address the issue, which agencies and organizations have also addressed this?)

Phillips Conservation District has researched this issue online, attended meetings of other organizations to gather information, submitted a comment to the BLM and supported Missouri River Conservation Districts Council's letter to the BLM.

4. HOW WILL YOUR DISTRICT CONTINUE TO SUPPORT, BE INVOLVED WITH, AND TRACK THIS RESOLUTION AFTER IT GOES TO NACD? *

Phillips Conservation District will support this resolution in any way necessary.

5. ARE THERE ANY EXISTING MACD POLICIES THAT THIS WOULD IMPACT OR INTERACT WITH?*

None that we are aware of.

6. ARE THERE ANY EXISTING NACD POLICIES THAT THIS WOULD IMPACT OR INTERACT WITH? *

None that we are aware of.

7. HOW WOULD THIS POLICY IMPACT NACD? * (budget, staff time, political capitol, partnerships, legislative capacity, etc)

We don't see any impacts other than to help NACD better communicate the sentiment of local Conservation Districts.

8. IF APPROPRIATE, POTENTIAL FISCAL IMPACT ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET *

unknown

9. MEETING AND DATE ADOPTED BY SPONSORING ENTITY *

August 8th, 2023 meeting of the Phillips Conservation District Board of Supervisors

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE(S) AND TITLE(S) *

Please type your name and title

Matt Simonson, Phillips Conservation District Chairman