

INTER-DEPARTMENT MEMO

FROM Tom Leeze

DATE

TO Don Jenni6-1-77SUBJECT attached

Would you please fill out the attached questionnaire as a member of TWS and return it to me for review and submission.

I'll have the final copy typed and sent to Evenden.

Thanks.

Tom

QUESTIONNAIRE

National Pasture and Range Improvement Program

(Please separate RANGE and PASTURE responses, attach additional pages, if needed)

- I. Please list in order of importance the five most important long-range problems in achieving RANGE improvement and management in your area.
 1. A lack of information about the effects of livestock grazing on wildlife, recreation and timber resources, and about how to minimize these impacts.
 2. Political difficulties in reducing or eliminating livestock grazing where information indicates other resources are being seriously impacted.
 3. Adequate funding to install the devices necessary for proper management.
 4. Acceptance by the livestock owners of the need for improved management.
 5. Lack of trained personnel to lay out and administer grazing programs.

- II. Please list in order of importance the five most important long-range problems in achieving PASTURE improvement and management in your area.
 1. A lack of understanding by the land owner why improvement is needed.
 2. A lack of information about proper management methods for each different type of pasture situation for minimizing detrimental impacts on other resource values.
 3. A lack of funding to accomplish management methods thought to be most desirable.
 4. Profit returns on initial investment is too low.
 5. Trained personnel to lay out and administer grazing programs.

III. Please use this space to elaborate on items under I and II or to give any additional remarks you feel are significant.

IV. Please suggest strategies or solutions you feel might be most effective in overcoming the problems you listed - locally, nationally.

1. Initiate and/or enlarge research efforts along lines indicated.
2. Disseminate more information to the general public about grazing on public lands, both beneficial and detrimental effects, and involve them more in resource allocation decision-making.
3. Disseminate more information about the need for proper livestock grazing management to those who graze livestock on public lands.

V. NAME OF ORGANIZATION Idaho Chapter of The Wildlife Society
AREA COVERED (STATE, COUNTY, NATIONAL) Northern Idaho
NAME OF RESPONDENT Thomas A. Leege OCCUPATION President
(Dairyman, Rancher, Wildlife Manager, etc.)

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

7101 WISCONSIN AVENUE, N.W.

SUITE 611

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20014



RECEIVED
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May 20, 1977

CLEARANCE
FRED G. EVENDEN
Executive Director
MICHAEL D. ZAGATA
Field Director
PHONE: (301) 986-8700

TO: Western, Northwest, Southwest, Central Mtns & Plains Sections & appropriate Chapter Presidents

FROM: Fred G. Evenden, Executive Director

Dear President:

Your help on the attached request will certainly be appreciated.

Can you get a response to me by June 30, 1977?

Many thanks,

Fred G. Evenden
Executive Director

FGE/amj

Enc.

Permanized
PLOVER BOND
25% COTTON FIBER
U.S.A.

NATIONAL PASTURE AND RANGE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Dairymen, ranchers, wildlife managers, public land managers, and recreation managers are all faced with increasing pressures for land and with making each kind of land more useful and productive. Needs, problems, and opportunities vary widely, but all relate to soil, water, vegetation and animal resources. Present condition of much of our pasture and range resources is substantially below its production potential.

On February 4, 1975, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD); in response to a wide base of concerns, passed a resolution calling for the development of a national pasture and range improvement program. NACD pledged to join with others in providing leadership in this effort. The Society for Range Management, The American Forage and Grassland Council, and the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior all acknowledged the need for increased attention to the pasture and range resources of the nation and pledged support in the effort to develop a program.

Four meetings were held during 1976, and a broad range of farm, ranch, livestock, wildlife, forestry, and environmental organizations expressed interest in participating. A national coalition of organization and agencies has developed.

Following election of a chairman and secretary at the November 9 meeting, a Task Force was formed and a slate of Technical Consultants was organized, goals were selected, and a plan of work was developed.

1. Goals of the Pasture and Range Improvement Program

To develop a national commitment to conserve, protect, and enhance soil, water, and vegetation resources on range and pasture lands to assure that these resources reach their full productivity. These lands need to be used and managed in the optimal ways to:

- a. Conserve, protect, and enhance the basic resources.
- b. Help meet the nation's needs for food and fiber production.
- c. Improve fish and wildlife habitat.
- d. Increase opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- e. Protect and improve the quality of water.
- f. Insure that renewable and non-renewable energy sources are used in an environmentally acceptable manner.
- g. Other

All needs of range and pasture lands will be considered, both private and public, with a major thrust towards resource conservation. Landowners and operators and public land managers will have a wider choice of uses--grazing, recreation, wildlife, and watershed--if resources are protected and improved towards their ecological potentials. The increasing pressures on these lands make such considerations critical.

In addition, it was hoped that the information obtained will be helpful in relating to 208 Water Quality Management, Renewable Resources Act Assessment, and other conservation and development activities. It is our objective to make the National Pasture and Range Improvement Program compatible with such efforts.

NATIONAL COALITION FOR PASTURE AND RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT

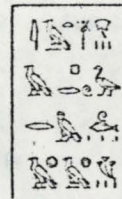
Agricultural Research Service, USDA
Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, USDA
Agway, Incorporated
American Fisheries Society
American Forage and Grassland Council
American Farm Bureau Federation
American Forestry Association
American National Cattlemen's Association
Bureau of Land Management, USDI
Cooperative States Research Service, USDA
Economics Research Service, USDA
Extension Service, USDA
Fish and Wildlife Service, USDI
Forest Service, USDA
Izaak Walton League of America
National Association of Conservation Districts
National Association of State Foresters
National Audubon Society
National Farmers Union
National Grange
National Milk Producers Federation
National Wildlife Federation
National Woolgrowers Association
National Resources Defense Council
Nature Conservancy
Professional Staff, House Committee on Agriculture
Professional Staff, Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry
Society of American Foresters
Society for Range Management
Soil Conservation Society of America
Soil Conservation Service, USDA
Western Environmental Trade Association
Wildlife Management Institute
Wildlife Society
Sport Fishing Institute
Environmental Protection Agency

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY

7101 WISCONSIN AVENUE, N.W.

SUITE 611

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20014



FRED G. EVENDEN
Executive Director
MICHAEL D. ZAGATA
Field Director
PHONE: (301) 986-8700

July 27, 1977

Robert E. Williams, Chairman
National Pasture and Range Improvement Program
National Association of Conservation Districts
1025 Vermont Avenue, N.W., Room 1105
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Bob:

The Wildlife Society is pleased to respond to your May 19, 1977 request for our input of views on pasture and range improvement problems and needs.

Views were solicited from our own sections and chapters in the western portion of the continent. The attached summarization in the format you requested probably does an injustice to some of the individual comments I received, but should give you the general picture. Very specific responses, such as: "spread of noxious shrubs," "insect damage to forage," "responsible use of chemicals," and "seeding back cropland" were not used, although such ideas were considered in summary form.

It is hoped these Wildlife Society views will be an assist to the Coalition Task Force and Technical Committee in preparing a National Range and Pasture Program.

A copy of my paper, "Wildlife and the Natural Three," given before the Society for Range Management, February 16, 1977, may suggest additional ideas to you, Bob.

Please contact me, Bob, when The Wildlife Society may be of further assistance.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred".

Fred G. Evenden
Executive Director

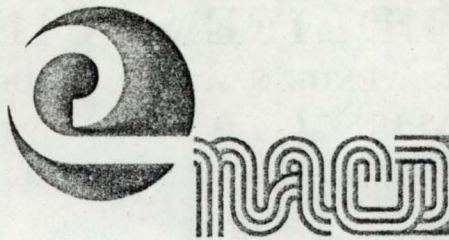
FGE/lam

Enclosures

cc: Society for Range Management
Society of American Foresters
American Fisheries Society
National Audubon Society

National Wildlife Federation
Wildlife Management Institute
Council, TWS
Draft contributors

(over)



SUITE 1105, 1025 VERMONT AVE., N.W. WASHINGTON, D.C. 20005 PHONE (202) 347-5995

May 19, 1977

MAY 20 1977

To: Coalition Organizations - National Range and Pasture Program
(see attached list)

Dear Friends:

We are sending the attached information and questionnaire to Coalition Organizations interested in the National Pasture and Range Improvement Program to solicit views on pasture and range improvement problems and needs. You may wish to reproduce the questionnaire and send it to state affiliations, etc., within your organization for their views. We would appreciate receiving a single response from your organization.

This questionnaire will give the Task Force and Technical Committee a broad base of ideas and suggestions. Results of the survey will be used to help provide a framework for developing further activities and information.

Your help is needed. Will you please complete the questionnaire for your organization and return it by Aug. 1, 1977 to:

Robert E. Williams, Chairman
National Pasture and Range Improvement Program
National Association of Conservation Districts
1025 Vermont Avenue, N.W. Room 1105
Washington, D.C. 20005

Sincerely,

Robert E. Williams
Chairman

REW:cje
attachments

Comments from The Wildlife Society on a
National Pasture and Range Improvement Program

I. Important Long-range Problems in Achieving Range Improvement and Management.

1. Lack of recognition and acceptance of the fact there is a problem that includes overgrazing, soil erosion, lowered productivity (e.g. cow-calf weights), water conditions, range vegetation conditions and a lack of recognition of what constitutes good range conditions, and lack of an understanding of the relationship between livestock and wildlife management on the range.
2. A lack of interest in, and economic and other incentives for, the landowner to correct problems in "1," above, through acceptance of published or demonstrable practices on the subject.
3. Need for protection and proper management of streams and riparian habitats that are normally very important to fish and wildlife on the rangelands.
4. Need for improved vegetation conditions which are, among other things, dependent upon reduction of noxious grasses, weeds and shrubs, and the improvement and maintenance of healthy native vegetation communities capable of drawing the greatest sustained diversity and productivity of resources from the local soil and water environment.
5. Improvement of multiple-use attitudes in the administrative and political arena regarding such things as establishment of management allotment plans on public lands, reduction of the overemphasis on livestock production on rangelands (as in the Taylor Grazing Act), consideration of the long-term rather than the short-term, subsidizing of poor practices, and the preclusion of fire as a management tool.

II. Important Long-range Problems in Achieving Pasture Improvement and Management.

1. Many of the same long-range problems for range, above, especially I-1, I-2, I-5, apply equally well to pasture improvement and management.
2. Consideration of and protection for the streams, wetlands and other riparian habitats is an even more important aspect in pasture than range management, that can have significant influence on fish and wildlife values.
3. Management practices on native pasture, such as those low-lying areas naturally flooded seasonally, grazing in the wrong season, and economic control measures.

III. Additional Comments on I and II, above.

1. Streams and riparian habitats are an extremely limited portion of all pasture and range. These habitats have high value for fish, wildlife, recreation and related uses. Range owners and managers need to know and understand the uniqueness of these areas and manage them to the maximum benefit of diverse resources in addition to livestock.
2. Vegetation change aspects of overstocking, fertilizing, cool-season invasion, brush control, fire or no fire, lack of summer forage, off-road vehicle use, et cetera, need to be better understood in range management.
3. Introduced and exotic plants and animals often significantly alter the condition of the range.
4. Conversion of rangelands to urban-suburban sprawl, and to cropland farming, especially with "clean farming" practices, greatly reduces wildlife habitat.

IV. Suggested Actions to Solve Pasture and Range Problems.

1. Develop a national land use plan and actions to put teeth in it.
2. Increased funding for staffing research and education-extension efforts to solve problems like those in I-1, I-2, and I-5.
3. Adopt comprehensive land use plans within a national framework at state and county levels.
4. Reduce overstocking and establish a fair balance between livestock production and other valid resource uses on range and pasture lands. Such balance must include recognition of the special values of native pastures, streams, and riparian habits for fish and wildlife.
5. Bring all federal land-holding agencies under one set of standards and guidelines for the management and use of range and pasture lands.