

code of federal regulations

Indians

25

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SUBCHAPTER N—GRAZING

PART 151—GENERAL GRAZING REGULATIONS

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SOURCE: 34 FR 9383, June 14, 1969, unless otherwise noted.

CROSS REFERENCES: For Navajo grazing regulations, see Part 152 of this chapter. For leasing and permitting of restricted Indian lands for farming, farm pasture, and business, see Part 131 of this chapter.

§ 151.1 Definitions.

(a) "Tribe" means a tribe, band, community, group, or pueblo of Indians.

(b) "Governing body" means the general council or the tribal committee, board, or other membership body recognized by the Secretary as having the authority to act for the tribe, band, community, pueblo, or group of Indians.

(c) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(d) "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

(e) "Area Director" means the Director of any established Area of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(f) "Superintendent" means the Superintendent of any Agency of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(g) "Individually owned land" means land or any interest therein held in trust by the United States for the benefit of individual Indians and land or any interest therein held by individual Indians subject to Federal restrictions against alienation or encumbrance.

(h) "Tribal land" means land or any interest therein held by the United States in trust for a tribe, band, community, group, or pueblo of Indians subject to Federal restrictions against alienation or encumbrance, and includes such land reserved for Indian Bureau administrative purposes when it is not immediately needed for such purposes. The term also includes lands held by the United States in trust for an Indian corporation chartered under section 17 of the Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 988; 25 U.S.C. 477).

(i) "Government land" means land, other than tribal land, acquired or reserved by the United States for Indian Bureau administrative purposes which is not immediately needed for the purposes for which it was acquired or reserved and land transferred to or placed under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(j) "Range unit" means a tract of range land designated as a management unit for administration of graz-

ing. A range unit may consist of tribal, individually owned or Government land or any combination thereof consolidated for grazing administration.

(k) "Permit" means a revocable privilege granted in writing limited to entering on and utilizing forage by domestic livestock on a specified tract of land.

(l) "Adult tribal members," for the purposes of this part, means a member of an Indian tribe, band, community, pueblo, or group, who has attained the age of 21 years.

(m) "Immediate family" means the spouse, brothers, sisters, lineal ancestors, and descendants of an adult tribal member.

(n) "Allocation" means the apportionment of grazing privileges without competitive bidding including the determination of who may graze livestock, the number and kind of livestock, and the place such livestock will be grazed.

§ 151.2 General authority.

It is within the authority of the Secretary to protect individually owned and tribal lands against waste and to prescribe rules and regulations under which these lands may be leased or permitted for grazing. Improper use which threatens destruction of the range and soil resource is properly considered waste. With respect to reservations upon which the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984), is applicable, the action of the Secretary must follow the directions in section 6 of that Act which are: "The Secretary of the Interior is directed to make rules and regulations for the operation and maintenance of Indian forestry units on the principle of sustained-yield management, to restrict the number of livestock grazed on Indian range units to the estimated carrying capacity of such ranges, and to promulgate such other rules and regulations as may be necessary to protect the range from deterioration, to prevent soil erosion, to assure full utilization of the range, and like purposes." It is also the Secretary's responsibility to improve the economic well being of the Indian people through proper and efficient resource use.

§ 151.3 Objectives.

It is the purpose of the regulations of this part to:

(a) Preserve, through proper grazing management, the land, water, forest, forage, wildlife, and recreational values on the reservations and improve and build up these resources where they have deteriorated.

(b) Promote use of the range resource by Indians to enable them to earn a living, in whole or in part, through the grazing of their own livestock.

(c) Provide for the administration of grazing privileges in a manner which will yield the highest return consistent with sustained yield land management principles and the fulfillment of the rights and objectives of tribal governing bodies and individual land owners.

§ 151.4 Regulations; scope; exceptions.

The grazing regulations of this part apply to individually owned, tribal, and Government lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, except as superseded by special written instructions from the Commissioner in particular instances, or by provisions of any tribal constitution, bylaws, or charter, heretofore duly ratified or approved, or by any tribal action authorized thereunder. All forms necessary to carry out the purpose of the regulations of this part shall be approved by the Commissioner. Grazing lands not in range units established under this part may be leased pursuant to Part 131 of this chapter.

§ 151.5 Establishment of range units.

The conservation, development, and effective utilization of the range resource requires consolidation of small individual and tribal ownerships and the organization of the total range area into management units. This shall be done under the direction of the Superintendent, after consultation with the Indians, in a manner which will best meet the requirements of Indian needs, land ownership status, and proper land use. Any contiguous block of Indian and Government rangeland in excess of 2,560 acres shall be designated as one or more range units.

Range units smaller than 2,560 acres may also be established under this procedure.

§ 151.6 Grazing capacity.

Subject to approval of the Area Director, the Superintendent shall prescribe the maximum number of livestock which may be grazed on each range unit and the season, or seasons, of use to achieve the objectives cited in § 151.3. The grazing capacity so prescribed will take into consideration the implementation of tribal objectives and programs requiring grazeable land to support wildlife and other nonlivestock uses. Stocking rates shall be reviewed on a continuing basis and adjusted as conditions warrant.

§ 151.7 Grazing on range units authorized by permit.

All grazing use of range units shall be authorized by a grazing permit except Indians' use of their own land pursuant to § 151.8. Permits on range units containing trust or restricted land which is entirely tribally owned, or is in combination with Government land, may be issued by the governing body, subject to approval by the Superintendent, or by the Superintendent pursuant to § 151.9 (b). The Superintendent shall issue all permits on range units containing trust or restricted land which is entirely individually owned or is in combination with tribal and or Government land.

[34 FR 9383, June 14, 1969; 34 FR 11283, July 4, 1969]

§ 151.8 Grazing exempt from permit.

Adult tribal members of any tribe may, without approval of the Superintendent, graze livestock on their own individually owned grazing land or other grazing land for which they are responsible on behalf of those non compos mentis, on behalf of their minor children and on behalf of minor children or others to whom they stand in loco parentis when such children do not have a legal representative. The term "graze livestock" means the grazing of livestock which are either owned by those persons listed above, or if not owned, are under their direct management and supervision. Grazing of livestock under any other arrange-

ment requires approval of the Superintendent.

§ 151.9 Authority of the Superintendent to include land in grazing permits.

(a) The Superintendent may include individually owned land in grazing permits on behalf of: (1) Orphaned minors; (2) persons who are non compos mentis and without legal guardians; (3) undetermined heirs or devisees of a deceased Indian owner; (4) adults whose whereabouts are unknown; (5) heirs or devisees, none of whom are using the land and who have not been able to agree upon the permitting of their land during a 3-month period, and after notice from the Superintendent given, by posting a general notice in all Post Offices on the reservation and with the tribal governing body; (6) those Indian land owners listed in § 151.8 who give the Superintendent written authority to grant grazing privileges; and (7) any other Indian minor or person, who is non compos mentis or otherwise under legal disability, if that person's guardian, conservator, or other fiduciary, appointed by a State court or by a tribal court or court of Indian offenses, operating under an approved constitution or law and order code, gives the Superintendent written authority to grant grazing privileges.

(b) The Superintendent may include tribal land in grazing permits on behalf of governing bodies who give written authority. When timely action is not taken by the governing body to give the Superintendent written authority, or to issue permits pursuant to § 151.7 and the criteria prescribed in § 151.10, the Superintendent may proceed to issue permits on tribal land, subject to veto of the governing body, in order to prevent resource waste or unreasonable economic loss to the tribe or its members. The Superintendent shall notify the governing body in writing of the action he proposes to take and allow a 60-day period during which the tribal veto may be exercised.

(c) The Superintendent may include Government land in grazing permits provided such land is not already under revocable permit to the tribe, in

which case, paragraph (b) of this section applies.

§ 151.10 Allocation of grazing privileges.

A tribal governing body may authorize the allocation of grazing privileges without competitive bidding on tribal and tribally controlled Government land to Indian corporations, Indian associations, and adult tribal members of the tribe represented by that governing body. The Superintendent may implement the governing body's allocation program by authorizing the allocation of grazing privileges on individually owned land. The eligibility requirements for allocations shall be prescribed by the governing body, subject to written concurrence of the Superintendent. Where timely action is not taken by the governing body to prescribe satisfactory requirements, the Superintendent shall notify it in writing that it has a 60-day period during which it may present requirements. Subject to the approval of the Area Director, the Superintendent shall prescribe the eligibility requirements after expiration of the 60-day period in the event satisfactory action is not taken by the governing body.

[34 FR 9383, June 14, 1969, as amended at 34 FR 11544, July 12, 1969]

§ 151.11 Competitive and negotiated sale of grazing privileges.

"(a) Grazing privileges not exempt from permit under § 151.8 and not reserved for allocation under § 151.10 shall be advertised for competitive public sale by the Superintendent except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this section. Advertisements shall be (1) approved by the Area Director prior to publication; (2) shall be for a 30-day period unless otherwise authorized by the Area Director; (3) shall call for sealed bids; (4) may provide for oral auction subsequent to sealed bid opening at the discretion of the governing body; and (5) shall limit the privilege of meeting high sealed bids of non-Indians to adult tribal members, Indian corporations, and Indian associations, according to preferences determined by the governing body and confirmed in writing by the Area Director.

(b) The Area Director may authorize the issuance of grazing permits by negotiation when in his discretion no useful purpose would be served by advertisement. Negotiated permits shall be limited to the grazing capacity established pursuant to § 151.6.

[34 FR 9383, June 14, 1969; 34 FR 11263, July 4, 1969]

§ 151.12 Kind of livestock.

(a) Tribal governing bodies may determine, subject to the grazing capacity prescribed by the Superintendent and Area Director the kind of livestock, e.g., cattle, sheep, etc., that may be grazed on range units composed entirely of tribal land or in combination with Government land.

(b) The Superintendent shall designate the same kind of livestock to be grazed on range units composed entirely of individually owned land, or in combination with tribal and or Government land, as that determined by governing bodies pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, unless the principles of proper land management or efficient permit administration require otherwise.

§ 151.13 Establishment of grazing fees.

(a) Tribal governing bodies may determine the minimum rental rate to be charged for the use of tribal lands (1) included in advertisements for public sale and (2) by allocation, except that allocated Indian permittees shall be required to pay not less than the reservation minimum rental rate established by the Area Director pursuant to paragraph (b) of this section for all non-Indian owned livestock which they may be authorized to graze on tribal lands. Prior to these determinations, the Superintendent shall provide the tribe with all available information including appraisal data concerning the value of grazing on tribal lands.

(b) The Area Director shall establish a reservation minimum acceptable grazing rental rate. The reservation minimum rate shall apply to all grazing privileges permitted on individually owned lands, to non-Indian owned livestock which allocated permittees may be authorized to graze on tribal

lands, and to all tribal lands when the governing body fails to establish a rate pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section. Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c) of this section, the rate established shall provide a fair annual return to the land owners.

(c) Indian landowners, in giving the Superintendent, written authority to grant grazing privileges on their individually owned land, may stipulate a minimum rate above the reservation minimum set by the Area Director if justified because of above average value. They may also stipulate a lower rate than the reservation minimum, subject to approval of the Superintendent when the permittee is a member of the landowner's immediate family.

§ 151.14 Duration of grazing permits.

(a) Tribal governing bodies may determine the duration of grazing permits on range units composed entirely of tribal land or in combination with Government land, subject to maximum period of 5 years except when substantial development or improvement is required, in which case the maximum period shall be 10 years.

(b) Subject to the same duration limits set forth in paragraph (a) of this section, the Superintendent shall prescribe the same period of duration for permits on range units composed entirely of individually owned land, or in combination with tribal and/or Government land, as that determined by governing bodies pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section unless the principles of proper land management or efficient permit administration require otherwise.

(c) Permits for a period in excess of 5 years shall provide for review of the grazing fees by the Superintendent at the end of the first 5 years and for adjustment as necessary.

§ 151.15 Assignment, modification, and cancellation of permits.

(a) Grazing permits shall not be assigned, subpermitted, or transferred without the consent of the contracting parties, including the surety, and the approval of the Superintendent.

(b) The Superintendent may revoke or withdraw all or any part of a graz-

ing permit by cancellation or modification on 30 days' written notice for violation of the permit or because of termination of trust status of permitted land. In case of cancellation or modification because of trust termination the action shall be effected on the next annual anniversary date of the grazing permit following the date of notice.

(c) The Superintendent may revoke or withdraw all or any part of a grazing permit by cancellation or modification on 180 days' written notice for allocated Indian use or for grazing exempt from permit pursuant to § 151.8. Unless otherwise mutually agreed upon by the interested parties, such actions shall be effected on the annual anniversary date of the grazing permit following the date of notice except when such timeliness of notice is not possible, in which case deferment of the intended action shall not be required to extend beyond 180 days from the date of the notice. Rental fees for grazing privileges taken for allocation shall not be less than those paid by the preceding permittee.

§ 151.16 Conservation and land use provisions.

Grazing operations shall be conducted in accordance with recognized principles of good range management. Stipulations or management plans necessary to accomplish this may be made a part of the grazing permit.

§ 151.17 Range improvements; ownership.

Improvements placed on the permitted land shall be considered affixed to the land unless specifically excepted therefrom under the permit terms. Written permission to construct and to remove improvements must be secured from the Superintendent. The permit will specify the maximum time allowed for removal of improvements so excepted.

§ 151.18 Payment of tribal fees and taxes.

Fees and taxes exclusive of annual grazing fees, assessed by the tribe in connection with grazing permits and with the approval of the Commissioner or Secretary, shall be billed for by the tribe and paid annually in advance

to the designated tribal official. Failure to make payment will subject the grazing permit to cancellation and may disqualify the permittee for future permits.

§ 151.19 Special permit requirements and provisions.

(a) All grazing permits shall contain the following provisions:

(1) While the lands covered by the permit are in trust or restricted status, all of the permittee's obligations under the permit and the obligation of his sureties are to the United States as well as to the owner of the land.

(2) Nothing contained in the permit shall operate to delay or prevent a termination of Federal trust responsibilities with respect to the land by the issuance of a fee patent or otherwise during the term of the permit.

(3) The permittee agrees he will not use, cause, or allow to be used any part of the permitted area for any unlawful conduct or purpose.

(4) The permit authorizes the grazing of livestock only and the permittee shall not utilize the permitted area for hay cutting, hunting, post or timber cutting, or any other use without written authorization from the responsible Indian or Federal authority.

§ 151.20 Bonding and insurance requirements.

(a) A performance bond satisfactory to the Superintendent may be required in an amount that will reasonably assure performance of the contractual obligations. A bond, when required, may be for the purpose of guarantying the estimated construction cost of any improvement to be placed on the land which will become the property of the landowner or to insure compliance with special or additional contractual obligations.

(b) The permittee may be required to provide insurance in an amount adequate to protect any improvements on the permitted premises; and may also be required to furnish appropriate liability insurance and such other insurance as may be necessary to protect the landowner's interest.

§ 151.21 Payment of annual grazing fees.

Annual grazing fees for all grazing permits shall be paid in advance and the date due shall be a provision of the permit. Payment shall be made to the Bureau of Indian Affairs unless otherwise provided by the permit.

§ 151.22 Payment of preparation fees.

Permittees shall pay annually in advance the following fee, in addition to the grazing fee, to cover the cost of work performed in the preparation of grazing permits: *Provided*, That where all or any part of the expenses of the work are paid from tribal funds an alternate schedule of fees may be approved by the Commissioner:

ANNUAL GRAZING FEE

Preparation fee	Percent
On the first \$500	3
On the next \$4,500	2
On all above \$5,000	1

In no event shall the fee be less than \$2 nor exceed \$250.

§ 151.23 On-and-off grazing privileges.

The permittee may be allowed credit for the grazing capacity of other range lands not covered by the permit, but which are owned or controlled by him and grazed in common with the permitted lands as a part of the range unit. The grazing capacity will be determined by the Superintendent and shown on the grazing permit.

§ 151.24 Livestock trespass.

(a) *Acts prohibited on Indian trust, restricted or Government lands.* The following acts are prohibited on Indian trust or restricted lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs:

(1) The grazing upon or driving across any individually owned, tribal, or Government lands of any livestock without an approved grazing or crossing permit.

(2) Allowing livestock to drift and graze on trust or restricted Indian lands without an approved permit.

(3) The grazing or livestock upon trust or restricted Indian lands within

an area closed to grazing of that class of livestock.

(4) The grazing of livestock by permittee upon an area of trust or restricted Indian lands withdrawn from use for grazing purposes to protect it from damage by reason of the improper handling of livestock, after the receipt of notice from the Superintendent of such withdrawal, or refusal to remove livestock upon instructions from the Superintendent when an injury is being done to the Indian lands by reason of improper handling of livestock.

(b) *Unauthorized grazing.* The owner of any livestock grazing in trespass on trust or restricted Indian lands is liable to a penalty of \$1 per head for each animal thereof for each day of trespass (except in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Minnesota where the penalty shall be \$1 per head of cattle regardless of the number of days of trespass), together with the reasonable value of the forage consumed by their livestock and damages to property injured or destroyed, and for expenses incurred in impoundment and disposal. The Superintendent shall take action to collect all such penalties and damages, reimbursement for expenses incurred in impoundment and disposal, and seek injunctive relief when appropriate. All payments for such penalties and damages shall be credited to the landowners where the trespass occurs except that the value of forage or crops consumed or destroyed may be paid to the lessee of the lands not to exceed the rental paid, and reimbursement for expenses incurred in impoundment and disposal shall be credited as appropriate.

(c) *Notice and order to remove.* (1) When it has been determined that a violation exists and the owner of the unauthorized livestock is known, written notice shall be served upon the alleged violator or his agent by certified mail with return receipt requested, or personal delivery and a copy of the notice shall be sent to any known lien holder. The notice shall set forth the act constituting the violation, the legal description of the land where the livestock were observed, the verification of brands in the State Brand Book,

and the regulation alleged to have been violated. The notice shall also instruct the alleged violator to remove the livestock within a specified time, allow a specified time from receipt of the notice to show that there has been no violations, or to make settlement under § 151.24(d). If the alleged violator fails to comply with the notice, the Superintendent may impound the livestock under § 151.24(f).

(2) When neither the owner of the unauthorized livestock nor his representative is known, the Superintendent may proceed to impound the livestock under § 151.24(f).

(d) *Settlement.* The amount due the Indian landowner and/or the United States in settlement for unauthorized grazing use shall be determined by the Superintendent as follows:

(1) A penalty of \$1 for each animal thereof for each day of trespass, except in the States of Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota where the penalty shall be \$1 for each animal without regard to the number of days of trespass.

(2) A reasonable value of forage consumed based upon the average rate received per month for comparable grazing privileges on the reservation for the kind of livestock concerned, or the estimated commercial value for such privileges if no comparable grazing privileges are sold.

(3) Damages to Indian or Government property injured or destroyed.

(4) All expenses incurred in gathering, impounding, caring for, and disposing of livestock in cases which necessitate impoundment under § 151.24(f).

(5) Neither the imposition of any civil penalty nor any action by the Secretary of the Interior shall preclude either any civil action by the United States, an Indian, or an Indian tribe for damages caused by trespassing livestock or prosecution for any offense involved with such trespass.

(e) *Demand for payment.* Where the livestock have been removed, but satisfactory settlement has not been made within the time prescribed under § 151.24(c), a certified letter, return receipt requested, shall be sent or personally delivered to the livestock owner or his agent, and a copy of the

letter shall be sent to any known lien holder. The letter shall demand immediate settlement and advise the violator that unless settlement is received within five working days from date of receipt, the case may be referred to the Department of Justice for appropriate action.

(f) *Impoundment and disposal.* Unauthorized livestock remaining on trust or restricted Indian or Government lands which are not removed therefrom within the period prescribed in § 151.24(c) may be impounded and disposed of by the Superintendent as provided herein:

(1) A written notice of intent to impound shall be sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or personally delivered to the owner, or his agent, and a copy of the notice shall be sent to any known lien holder. Any time after five days of delivery of the notice, the unauthorized livestock may be impounded.

(2) Where the owner or his agent is unknown, or a known owner or his agent refuses to accept delivery of the notice, a notice of intent to impound shall be published in a local newspaper, posted at the nearest community building and tribal council headquarters, and at a post office near the Indian or Government lands involved. Any time after five days of posting of the notice, the unauthorized livestock may be impounded.

(3) Unauthorized livestock that are owned by persons given notice under paragraphs (f)(1) and (2) of this section may be impounded without further notice any time within the 12-month period following the effective date of a notice given under this subsection.

(4) Where there is imminent danger that trespassing livestock will severely injure a growing or harvestable crop or substantially destroy the range forage, the livestock may be impounded immediately.

(g) *Notice of public sale.* Following the impoundment of unauthorized livestock, a notice of sale of impounded livestock shall be published in a local newspaper, posted at the nearest community building and tribal council headquarters, and at a post office near the Indian or Government lands in-

involved. The notice will describe the livestock and specify the date, time and place of sale. The date set shall be at least five days after the publication and posting of such notice. Any known owners or agents and known lien holders shall be notified in writing by certified mail, return receipt requested, or by personal delivery of the sale, and the procedure by which the impounded livestock may be redeemed prior to the sale as described in § 151.24(h).

(h) *Redemption.* Any owner or known lien holder of the impounded livestock may redeem them at any time before the time set for the sale by submitting proof of ownership and the settlement of all obligations described in § 151.24(d).

(i) *Sale.* If the livestock are not redeemed before the time fixed for their sale, they shall be sold at public sale to the highest bidder. If a satisfactory bid is not received, the livestock may be reoffered for sale, condemned and destroyed, or otherwise disposed of. When livestock are sold by the Superintendent pursuant to these regulations, he shall furnish the purchaser a bill of sale or other written instrument evidencing the sale.

(j) *Distribution of proceeds.* The net proceeds of the sale, after deduction of the prescribed penalty and the deduction of the necessary costs and expenses of the Secretary of the Interior as provided in § 151.24(d), shall be paid to the owner of the animal upon satisfactory proof of ownership submitted within six months of the date of the sale. Net proceeds of the sale of an animal, not paid to the owner, shall be deposited in the United States Treasury to the credit of the landowners where the trespass occurred.

[45 FR 69446, Oct. 21, 1980]

§ 151.25 Control of livestock diseases.

Whenever livestock on Indian lands become infected with contagious or infectious diseases, or have been exposed thereto, such livestock must be treated and the movement thereof restricted in accordance with applicable Federal and State laws and tribal ordinances.