

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
UNITED STATES
FOREST SERVICE
2026
PROSPECTUS FOR
CATTLE GRAZING
ON THE
MARK TWAIN NATIONAL FOREST MISSOURI

BID OPENING DATE: March 11, 2026, OPENING TIME: 1:00pm

SUBMIT BIDS TO: Rangeland Management Specialist

Houston Ranger District
108 S. SAM HOUSTON BLVD.
Houston, MO 65483

GRAZING PROSPECTUS AND BIDDING INFORMATION

Introduction

The purpose of this prospectus is to provide information to qualified individuals interested in bidding on available cattle grazing allotments administered by the Mark Twain National Forest. The allotment being offered in this prospectus is:

- **Tie Slide Allotment:** 4 Pastures, 163 Capable Grazing Acres, 172 Total Acres, 252 Head Months = 50 Animal Units.

It is strongly recommended that prospective bidders carefully read this Prospectus in its entirety. It is also strongly recommended that prospective bidders conduct their own site inspections prior to submitting a bid.

Please contact Rangeland Management Specialist **Adam Franck (417) 967-4194** if you have any questions about the information provided

Terms of Grazing Permits Offered

A Term Grazing Permit will be issued to the qualified high bidder and will authorize grazing of **cattle** within the designated grazing boundaries as described in this prospectus. The **annual grazing season will be restricted to the period of May 1st through September 30th** unless otherwise stated in the Term Grazing Permit and in adherence to planned prescribed burning plans.

No grazing will be permitted outside of these dates without prior written approval from the authorized Forest Service representative.

In accordance with FSM 2231.03(1), the Term Grazing Permit resulting from this advertisement will be issued for a 10-year period (Expiring on December 31, 2035). Upon expiration of the Term Grazing Permit issued under this prospectus, a new prospectus will be issued, and the grazing boundaries will again be made available to the public for bidding. The current permit holder will be provided with the opportunity to retain their permit through matching the qualified highest bidder as provided for in 36 CFR 222.54 and FSH 2209.13, 81.42(e) if they remained in good standings. Grazing use cannot be authorized during any period of delinquency in payments due.

All permits will be issued in accordance with FSM 2200 and the terms and conditions, Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the individual grazing permits.

Minimum Qualifications

To be eligible for a grazing permit, the successful bidder must be a U.S. citizen and **own sufficient base property.** * Such property shall include the basic facilities necessary to conduct ranching operation.

All cattle grazed on National Forest lands must be **owned by the permittee** as specified in the Permit Application and Bid Form. * All cattle grazed on National Forest System lands will be ear tagged and/or branded sufficiently to be distinguished from other cattle in the area.

The permittee must possess the ability to adequately care for and control the cattle placed on National Forest System lands.

* To exercise use of this permit, the permittee will furnish all evidence of ownership of livestock and base property requested by the Forest Service.

All lands and specified facilities associated with this Prospectus are owned and controlled by the United States and administered by the Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

The grazing season is for five (5) months of the year from May 1st to September 30th. The carrying capacity is computed by taking HM (Head Months) ÷ 5 months (length of grazing season) = # of permitted animals to be grazed. The minimum carrying capacity one is allowed to operate is 90% of the maximum carrying capacity permitted. Stocking rates are predetermined based on allotment conditions. Any excess cattle will be considered trespassing. Exceeding maximum carrying is grounds for fines or revocation of permit.

Allotment

Tie Slide: This allotment is in T33N, R10W, Sec 09. Accessible from Houston MO, take US 63 14 mi to Licking, turn left onto Hwy 32, 3.9 mi turn right onto State Rte N 2.2mi, turn left onto Hwy AF, continue straight for 6.5 mi, turn right onto Forestry Tr 249.

The allotment is comprised of 4 pastures and is managed as a deferred rotational grazing system. All pastures are connected for easy movement of livestock. There is one watering pond and/or tank in each pasture. Current fencing infrastructure is in good condition, adequate forage levels for carrying capacity, no corral or holding pens available.

General Operational Considerations and Requirements

General Operational Considerations and Requirements will be reoccurring annually and must be met for permit to remain compliant.

Watering: Riparian protection is a primary concern of the Forest Service, and these resources will be monitored closely. Maintenance and service done to existing water tanks and/or ponds, will be at the permit holder's expense and will be done in conjunction with the Rangeland Management Specialist.

Mineral: Locations for mineral block/mineral supplement placement less than 1/8th mile (660ft) or be approved by the Forest Service prior to actual placement.

Corrals: The permittee will be required to furnish their own corral gates for temporary holding pens for catching cattle. The use of temporary holding pens must be closely coordinated with the Forest Service to prevent resource damage. Any locations for temporary holding pen placement shall be approved by the Forest Service prior to the actual placement.

Fencing, Fence Maintenance, and Locks: Fence maintenance is the responsibility of the permit holder. Maintenance of fencing includes proper functioning gates on hinges and chains with locks. Access will not be exclusive to individuals grazing allotments; this is public land and open for public use as well as permitted uses.

The permittee will be required to furnish all maintenance on existing fences. Maintenance materials will not be furnished by Forest Service. These additional requirements will be at the expense of the successful bidder and should be considered part of the operational expenses when submitting a bid. The successful bidder will bear the full costs for all materials, labor, and equipment for maintenance work unless specifically stated otherwise in a Fee Credit Agreement.

The prospective bidder is strongly encouraged to inspect the fencing prior to submitting a bid. Frequent and excessive escapes of cattle due to permittee negligence regarding fence maintenance may be cause for revocation of permit.

Allotment Forage Conditions: Allotment pastures are a mix of cool season grasses and forbs. Brush and/or invasive species removal will need to be completed annually.

Plants that are toxic to cattle have the potential to occur within any grazing allotment. Invasive and/or noxious weeds such as Canada goldenrod, thistle, autumn olive, teasel and multi-flora rose are also a concern. The Forest Service will assist the successful bidder in identifying these plants and may offer some options for control. However, the Forest Service is **NOT** responsible for any injury or losses due to toxic plants.

Co-operative Work for Fee Credit: Fee Credit is a system for allowing term grazing permit holders to complete **required** or **necessary** improvements identified by the forest officer that are above and beyond routine maintenance, in lieu of paying grazing fees. In short, the grazing fee will be reduced by the amount of credit work approved by the District Ranger. A "coop

Agreement” must be developed in writing and signed **prior** to any work being performed. Examples of fee credit projects include, but are not limited to: *mowing, new fence construction, brush removal, pond cleaning, installation of new stock watering facilities, access road improvements, and reclamation of pasture from brush encroachment. Work done outside of the agreement without authorization is not eligible and will not be considered. Credit will **NOT** be granted for such projects as: routine fence or other structural improvement maintenance, range improvements that are for the sole purpose of permittee convenience, or other routine cattle management practices.

The permittee will pay the costs of, perform, or otherwise provide for the proportionate share of cooperative improvements and management practices on the permitted area when determined by the Forest officer in charge that such improvements and practices are essential to proper protection and management of the resources administered by the Forest Service.

Utilities: The United States Department of Agriculture has no obligation to furnish utilities or services.

General Permit Requirements: (Required of all Term Grazing Permit holders on an annual basis.)

A Bill for Collection will be issued by the Forest Service prior to the start of each grazing season that specifies the kind, number, and class of cattle, the period of use, the grazing allotment, and the grazing fees. At least 90% of the permitted cattle must be released on the permitted area to validate the grazing permit. All cattle must be marked or tagged as specified in the grazing permit. Color and/or type of ear tag and/or brand, must be specified. **No cattle will be released until the permit is approved, the bill for collection has been paid in full, and notification is received from a Forest Service representative.**

The permittee may not transfer, assign, lease, or sublet this permit in whole or part.

The permittee will manage cattle in accordance with the Allotment Management Plan and all provisions set forth in Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the Term Grazing Permit. An example grazing permit is available upon request.

Livestock Ownership Requirement:

- Only livestock owned by the permittee are authorized to graze under this permit.
- Beginner ranchers may run up to 50% of the permitted livestock under a mentor/mentee agreement with the permittee.
- To make use of the permit, the permittee will furnish all evidence of ownership requested by the Forest Service. Livestock purchased and subsequently sold back to the original owner, or to an agent, assignee, or anyone representing or acting in concert with the original owner, within a 24-month period without prior written approval by the Forest officer in charge will not be considered valid ownership of the livestock.

Only livestock marked, tagged, or branded as shown in the application upon which this permit is based will be allowed to graze under this permit unless the permittee has advance written approval from the Forest officer in charge to do otherwise.

Liability:

The Forest Service is in no way responsible for personal injury or property damage resulting from permitted cattle and horses used by the permittee. Liability insurance for the permitted cattle is strongly recommended and may be required by state law. The permittee claims full responsibility for personal injury or property damage resulting from the permitted cattle in accordance with state law.

Other Considerations (e.g., Recreational Use, Allowable Use)

Other Considerations:

As with all National Forest lands, these tracts are open to the public for use in accordance with Forest Service regulations and policies. **The acquisition of a grazing permit in no way limits the public's right to access these lands.**

Representatives from various government agencies and ecological monitors, including, but not limited to floristic, amphibious, insect, and upland birds, may enter and actively monitor on the allotment during the various seasons and as permitted to conduct work. This includes utilizing access roads into and within the pasture.

Recreationalists and recreational opportunities and activities, including, but not limited to hunting, hiking, bicycling, dog training, and equestrians may actively utilize the pasture during various seasons. This includes utilizing access roads to the pasture. Bicycles and equestrian use will be restricted to designated trails. While conflicts between permittees and National Forest public visitors have been held to a minimum in the past, operational problems may occur due to gates being left open, damage to fencing, and/or harassment of cattle.

The permittee will be allowed limited vehicular access into the permitted grazing boundaries for cattle management or improvement maintenance purposes. The use of ATV/UTVs may be granted to the successful bidder(s), but this must be negotiated individually and **is not guaranteed**. **The Forest Service is in no way responsible for personal injury or property damage resulting from the use of ATVs, UTVs, vehicles, trailers or any other means of access permitted grazing boundaries.**

Grazing Fees

The successful bidder will be billed for the initial grazing year per the bid submitted.

In subsequent grazing years, as required by 36 CFR 222.54(g), the grazing fee for each competitively bid Term Grazing Permit will be adjusted annually with a ***Bid Adjustment Factor (BAF)***, using the current hay price index for the Corn Belt Subregion.

To establish a ***Base Grazing Value (BGV)***, take the submitted bid, divided by the current years **Bid Adjustment Factor**; This number will be your **BGV** for the life of your permit. It will then be multiplied each year by the current year's Bid Adjustment Factor to determine the grazing fee for each of the subsequent years during the term of the grazing permit. This amount will either increase or decrease based on market data each year.

Example: A bid of \$10.00 per head month submitted in 2022 would have a set Base Grazing Value (BGV) of **\$6.53** (\$10 divided by \$1.53). Each subsequent year the established BGV is multiplied by the current year's BAF thus = the annual grazing fee billed to the permittee

<u>Original Bid</u>	<u>Year/BAF</u>	<u>BGV x BAF= Billing Fee</u>
\$10.00	2022/\$1.53	\$6.53 x 1.53 = \$10.00
	2023/\$1.73	\$6.53 x 1.73 = \$11.29
	2024/\$1.93	\$6.53 x 1.93 = \$12.60
	2025/\$2.01	\$6.53 x 2.01 = \$13.12

As you can see from the example above, the first year will be billed at the original bid amount. However, in subsequent years the grazing fee may be higher or lower than the original bid depending upon the current years Bid Adjustment Factor.

Annual Increases to Date	
Year	Bid Adjustment Factor
2022	\$1.53
2023	\$1.73
2024	\$1.93
2025	\$2.01
2026	>\$2.01

In Summary: Once your Base Grazing Value (BGV) is established from your original bid ($OB \div BAF = BGV$), it will be locked in and multiplied annually to whatever the established Bid Adjustment Factor (BAF) is for that year to produce the annual grazing fee bill.

Grazing fees are assessed by the Head Month. One (1) head month is equal to one (1) cow (with or without calf) grazing for one (1) month. For example, 12 head of cattle grazing for a 5-month grazing season would equal 60 Head Months ($12 \times 5 = 60$).

Payment will be made to the USDA, Forest Service. No cattle will be released onto National Forest lands until notification of payment is received, the permit has been approved, and the permittee is notified by the Forest Service to proceed. Annually, the permittee must provide proof of purchase for cattle to be turned out. This may be provided as a sales receipt to the permit holder for cattle. Receipts must be provided before cattle are released.

Offerings

The offerings involved in this prospectus are exclusive authorization to graze cattle on the offered grazing allotments **for 5 months of the year from May 01st to September 30th** for a ten-year term expiring on 12/31/2035.

The Forest Service reserves that right to adjust the Head Month (HM) by extending or reducing the length of the grazing period. The rationale for adjusting the HM would be to achieve proper multi use management objectives to include wildlife, recreation, timber, and range in accordance with the goals and objectives under the 2005 Mark Twain Forest Plan.

This prospectus shall herein be made as part of the grazing term permit authorized for each allotment.

Application Bid Package

(1) The attached Application for a Term Grazing Permit **must be fully completed, signed and submitted with the bid form- the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope**. Failure to do so will result in an automatic disqualification of the submitted bid.

(2) All bids will be marked on the bid sheet provided and signed and sealed in an envelope when submitted. **UNSIGNED BIDS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY DISQUALIFIED.**

**Note: All envelopes must be sealed and clearly marked on the outside with:
“GRAZING BID ENCLOSED”**

Failure to properly seal and mark the outside of the envelope may result in the bid being disqualified.

NOTE: A bid deposit of 10% of the total amount of the bid is required (36 CFR 222.54).
Bid deposits can be made by Cashier's Check or Money Order made out to:

**USDA Forest Service
C/O US Bank
P.O. Box 6200-09
Portland, OR 97228-6200**

Bid deposits will be returned to all unsuccessful bidders. The bid deposit of the qualified high bidder will be applied to the annual grazing fee.

If the high bidder cannot fulfill the terms of the Term Grazing Permit, the bid deposit will be forfeited, and the allotment will be awarded to the second highest bidder.

(3) To qualify, the bid must meet the current **minimum bid amount of \$8.84 per head month.**

Note: The minimum bid is the 2025 non-competitive grazing fee established under 36 CFR 222.53 and FSM 2238.6 for the Corn Belt Subregion. This fee amount is regional in scope and does not represent the true fair market value for the grazing allotments being offered in this prospectus. This fee is subject to change for the 2026 rate release. **Estimated Market Value (Required):** Previous competitive bidding procedures have shown that the true fair market value for these areas is significantly higher than the established non-competitive grazing fee. Grazing advertisements on the Mark Twain National have resulted in qualified bids between \$10.00 and \$26.00 per head month depending on the specific conditions of the grazing areas being offered.

The permit will be awarded to the qualified high bidder (see page 3 “Minimum Qualifications).

Upon opening the applicant's bids, the authorized officer shall determine whether each bidder meets the qualifications to hold a permit and shall refund the deposit to any applicant who is not qualified or who does not offer the high bid.

If the Forest Service determines that no bids represent the fair market value for the advertised grazing boundaries, the Agency reserves the right to reject the submitted bids and re-advertise under a new prospectus.

(4) The last permit holder for each allotment has the **right to match high bids** received for that corresponding allotment at this bid opening. Matching high bids must be received in writing by the Range Specialist on or before **March 11, 2026**.

(5) Bids will be accepted at the Houston Ranger District until

1:00 P.M., March 11, 2026

All bids received will be opened publicly immediately thereafter. Bids may be hand delivered or mailed to:

**Houston Ranger District
108 S. Sam Houston Blvd
Houston, MO 65483
Attn: Adam Franck**

In the event two individuals submit bids for differing numbers of cattle, the Apparent High Bidder will be determined by the total bid amount, not the per head bid price.

In the case of identical bids, an oral auction will be conducted. If either party is not present, then a drawing will be conducted. See the attached Bid Sheet to calculate the grazing bid.

Bids may be withdrawn and/or modified no later than the exact time set for the opening of bids.

**BIDS FOR GRAZING USE IN EXCESS OF THE ESTABLISHED
MAXIMUM GRAZING CAPACITY OR BELOW THE MINIMAL
ALLOWABLE LIMIT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**THE FOREST SERVICE RESERVES THE RIGHT TO EXTEND THE
DATE FOR RECEIVING BIDS, TO REJECT ANY AND/OR ALL BIDS,
AND TO WAIVE ANY TECHNICAL DEFECTS IN THE BIDS.**

Permit Award

The high bidder for each allotment offered will be awarded grazing authorization for that allotment through the issuance of a Forest Service Term Grazing Permit. All permit holders are expected to comply with all the terms of the permit and with this prospectus. This prospectus will be incorporated and made a part of the terms and conditions of all grazing permits issued.

For further information, contact Rangeland Management Specialist Adam Franck at Office: 417-967-4194 or by email: adam.franck@usda.gov

HOW FOREST SERVICE GRAZING AREAS ARE MANAGED

- Cattle grazing is primarily used as a tool to meet resource goals and maintain open landscapes.
- Manage for multiple resources: wildlife, recreation, fisheries.
- A Minimum of 3" stubble height is maintained on cool season pastures.
- The following conversion factors are used to convert class of animal to Head Months:

The number of cattle is based on Head Months (HM). A Head Month (HM) is the amount of forage necessary for one (1) 1000lb cow for one (1) month. The Forest Service identifies the following equating to 1 HM.

Bulls	1.0 HEAD MONTH
Cows with nursing calves up to 6 months of age	1.0 HEAD MONTH
Cows without calves	1.0 HEAD MONTH
Calves > 6 months	1.0 HEAD MONTH
Yearlings	1.0 HEAD MONTH

- To determine the number of head that can be grazed:
 - Example: You want to graze with weaned calves. The pasture you are interested in produces 200 HM. The grazing season is May 1- September 30 (5 months). The conversion factor is 1.0. Dividing 200 HM by 1.0 = 200 total Head Months available. 200 Head Months divided by 5-month season = 40 Head.
- Many allotments are still being developed/improved.
- Allotments are inspected throughout the season. Permittee is responsible for maintenance of improvements in their area.
- Permittee is responsible for having cattle on areas at the proper time and removing them according to the permit agreement. Cattle will be moved from pasture to pasture according to forage conditions, to prevent overgrazing and ensure proper utilization of forage. Any changes to the permit must have the approval of the District Ranger. Failure to follow terms of the permit may result in revocation of the permit.
- Keep the above information for reference if you are selected for any of the permit areas.
- Return only the APPLICANT QUALIFICATION STATEMENT and BID SHEET FOR FOREST SERVICE ALLOTMENT BIDS.

APPLICANT QUALIFICATION STATEMENT

	(Check One)	Yes	No
I will have sufficient cattle to fully utilize the allotment.			
I own base property with cattle handling facilities.			
I attest the contents of my bid were not disclosed.			
I can comply with allotment plan and permit conditions.			
This information is correct to the best of my knowledge.			

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Print:

Name:

Address:

Telephone:

Applicant must answer all questions to be considered.

Return with bid application:

BID SHEET Mark Twain GRAZING ALLOMENTS

GRAZING AREA	BID PER HM (Minimum \$8.49/ HM)	HEAD MONTHS Per year	TOTAL BID Annually
EXAMPLE <i>Big Piney Allotment</i> <i>Head Months = 175</i>	<i>Bid price (times)</i> <i>\$10.00 x</i>	<i>(Number of HM in</i> <i>Allotment)</i> <i>175 HM =</i>	<i>Equals total bid</i> <i>\$1,750.00</i>
Tie Slide Allotment Animal Units: 50 Grazing Period: 5/1 to 09/30		252	

BIDDER'S SIGNATURE

DATE: