Solicitation for Term Grazing Permits

Prospectus Letter for Soliciting Applicants

Coville National Forest

General Information:
The Colville National Forest has six vacant cattle grazing allotments available for allocation through the grant-priority process. This solicitation announces the opportunity for potential applicants to be considered for a term grazing permit. Due to the administrative combination of the Empire and Henry Creek allotments, five term grazing permits will be issued for the six-allotments being advertised. Term grazing permits are issued for a period of 10 years and may be issued to individuals or entities that meet all eligibility and qualification requirements.

Eligibility Requirements:
To be eligible for a term grazing permit, an applicant must be either: a U.S. citizen who has reached the State's age of majority (with exceptions for minors who have a qualified cosigner, minors legally emancipated, or foreign nationals who have filed for naturalization); a legally recognized entity formed under applicable Federal and State laws; or an American Indian Tribe, Tribal Organization, or Tribal Member. No exceptions to these eligibility requirements are allowed.

Qualification Requirements:
An applicant for a term grazing permit must own base property and possess the livestock to be permitted under the term grazing permit. All documents submitted to demonstrate qualifications such as proof of purchase and ownership of base property and livestock, State brand registration, and any supporting materials must identify the same precise legal entity. The term grazing permit must ultimately be issued to the legal entity that owns the required base property and permitted livestock. *These documents must be in the exact same name.*

The qualification requirements apply both at the time of the application and throughout the term of the permit. It is the ongoing obligation of the permit holder to notify the authorized officer in a timely manner of any changes in ownership and submit an amended application to the authorized officer. Failure to notify the authorized officer of such changes can result in cancellation or suspension of the permit.

Base Property and Livestock Ownership Requirements:
Base property refers to the land and improvements a permittee owns and uses for their farm or ranch operation and formally submits to qualify for a term grazing permit. There is no national minimum or maximum acreage requirement, and applicants are not required to designate all their private land as base property. At minimum, the property must include a livestock water source and handling facilities. When property is jointly

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owned, all owners must apply together under the ownership name recorded at the county recorder's office. These ownership requirements also apply to members of grazing associations, whose rules of management may impose more restrictive base property standards than Forest Service policy to address local needs.

An applicant must own the mature livestock that will graze on National Forest System lands. Mature livestock are defined as animals that are weaned or at least six months old when entering NFS lands, or that will reach 12 months of age during the authorized grazing period.

Vacant Allotment Information and Additional Considerations:

Allotment	Authorized Use Period	# of Livestock Pair	Acres	Stocking Rate
Bamber	June 1 – October 15	60	4,728	93 acres/pair
Henry Creek/Empire	June 1 – October 15	56	8,024	143 acres/pair
Little Boulder	June 1 – September 30	155	30,322	196 acres/pair
Renner Lake	May 15 – September 30	25	5,707	228 acres/pair
North Fork Chewelah Creek	June 1 – October 15	112	20,617	184 acres/pair

Bamber

- Allotment is approximately 4,728 acres with a two-pasture deferred rotation.
- Grazing season starts June 1st and ends October 15th.
- 60 cow/calf pairs.
- Range infrastructure consists of 1 handling facility, 18 water developments and approximately 3.25 miles of fencing.

Additional Considerations

- Allotment has several existing range improvements that need to be reconstructed.

Henry Creek/Empire

- Allotment management is combined for these allotments. Together they are approximately 8,024 acres with a total of five pastures and a deferred rotation.
- Grazing season starts June 1st and ends October 15th.
- 56 cow/calf pairs.
- Range infrastructure combined for these two allotments consists of 11 water developments and approximately 11 miles of fencing.

Additional Considerations

- Existing range improvements need reconstructed.

Little Boulder

- Allotment is approximately 30,322 acres with a two-pasture deferred rotation.

- Grazing season starts June 1st and ends September 30th.
- 155 cow/calf pairs.
- Range infrastructure consists of 1 handling facility, 4 water developments and approximately .5 miles of fencing.

Additional Considerations

- Allotment borders Canada to the north and livestock are not anticipated to drift off the allotment into foreign country. No current international boundary fence.
- Vegetation is composed of dense/mature canopy of trees with minimal open landscape.
- Future restoration projects are planned, beginning in 2029, to manage timber, and coordination with other uses is expected.

Renner Lake

- Allotment is approximately 5,707 acres and is composed of one pasture.
- Management System: Adaptive management, meaning grazing practices (herding, salting, timing, distribution) must adjust based on monitoring results. Allotment is composed of a single pasture.
- Grazing Season is May 15th – September 30th each year.
- Authorized use is 25 cow/calf pairs.

Projects Required or Potentially Required on the Renner Lake Allotment

- Construct boundary fence between Renner Lake and Boyds Allotments, totaling less than 1/4 mile across short segments where roads breached natural barriers.
- Install additional barriers or fencing to protect riparian areas and sensitive plant populations when monitoring indicates standards are not being met.
- Construct fence to protect water quality around the special-use water source in SE¼ NW¼ Section 12.
- Maintain all existing range infrastructure

North Fork Chewelah Creek

- Allotment is approximately 20, 617 acres with a five-pasture deferred rotation system.
- The season of use for livestock grazing is from June 1st to October 15th.
- 112 cow/calf pairs.
- Range Infrastructure consists of six water developments and approximately five miles of allotment/pasture boundary fence.

Additional Considerations

- There is no handling facility currently on this allotment.
- Additional range improvements are expected to be implemented under the last project level analysis consisting of fence construction, water developments, and meadow retention.
- Allotment has high interface with public use for motorized recreational activities.
- Several meadows and dispersed campsites located within the allotment.

General Terms and Conditions for Term Grazing Permit:
This section outlines the expectations for holding a Term Grazing Permit.

1. Validation of Permit. The issuance of a Bill for Collection, payment of fees and actual turning on at least 90 percent of livestock the first grazing season after the permit is issued will validate this permit for the number, kind, and class of livestock, grazing allotment, and period of use for the particular year.

2. Bill for Collection. Each year, after validation and prior to the beginning of the grazing season, the Forest Service will send the permittee a Bill for Collection specifying for the current year the kind, number, and class of livestock allowed to graze, the period of use, the grazing allotment, and the grazing fees. This bill, when paid, authorizes use for that year and becomes part of this permit.

3. Payment of Fees. The permittee will not allow owned or controlled livestock to be on Forest Service administered lands unless the fees specified in the Bill for Collection are paid.

4. Administrative Offset and Credit Reporting. Any monies that are payable or may become payable from the United States, under this permit, to any person or legal entity not an agency or subdivision of a State or local government may be subject to administrative offset for the collection of a delinquent debt the person or legal entity owes to the United States. Information on the person's or legal entity's responsibility for a commercial debt or delinquent consumer debt owed the United States shall be disclosed to consumer or credit reporting agencies.

5. Interest, Penalty, and Administrative Costs. Interest shall be charged on any payment or fee amount not paid within 30 days from the date the payment was due. Interest shall accrue from the date the payment was due. In addition, in the event the account becomes delinquent, administrative costs may be assessed. A penalty of 6 percent per year shall be assessed on any payment or fee amount overdue in excess of 90 days from the date the first billing was due. Payments will be credited on the date received by the designated collection officer or deposit location. If the due date(s) for any of the above payments falls on a non-workday, the charges shall not apply until the close of business on the next workday.

6. Term of Permit. This permit will be effective for ten years from date of issuance, unless waived, cancelled, or otherwise terminated as provided herein. The permittee has first priority for receipt of a new permit at the end of the term subject to modification deemed necessary by the Forest Service. In order to update terms and conditions, this permit may be cancelled at any time provided a new permit is issued to the existing permit holder for a new term of 10 years following this update.

7. Ownership Requirement.

(a) Only livestock owned by the permittee are authorized to graze under this permit. To exercise 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.

(b) Base property owned and used by the permittee to qualify for a term grazing permit must meet minimum base property requirements approved by the officer in charge.

8. Range and Livestock Management.

(a) The allotment management plan for the land described on page 1, Part 1 is part of the permit, and the permittee will carry out its provisions, other instructions, or both as issued by the Forest officer in charge for the area under permit and will require employees, agents, and contractors and subcontractors do likewise.

(b) The number, kind, and class of livestock, period of use, and grazing allotment specified in the permit may be modified when determined by the Forest Officer in charge to be needed for resource protection. Except in extreme emergencies where resource conditions are being seriously affected by livestock use or other factors, such as fire, drought, or insect damage, notice of a scheduled reduction of numbers of livestock or period of use under a term permit will be given one (1) full year before a modification in permitted numbers or period of use becomes effective. This does not apply to annual adjustment in grazing as provided for in Section 8(c).

(c) When, in the judgment of the Forest Officer in charge, the forage is not ready to be grazed at the beginning of the designated grazing season, the permittee, upon request of the Forest officer, will defer placing livestock on the grazing allotment to avoid damage to the resources. The permittee will remove livestock from Forest Service-administered lands before the expiration of the designated grazing season upon request of the Forest officer when it is apparent that further grazing will damage the resources.

(d) The permittee will allow only the numbers, kind, and class of livestock on the allotment during the period specified in Part 1 hereof or the annual Bill for Collection, including any modifications made as provided for in Section 8(c). If livestock owned by the permittee are found to be grazing on the allotment in greater numbers, or at times or places other than permitted in Part 1 hereof, or specified on the annual Bill for Collection, the permittee shall be billed for excess use at the unauthorized use rate and may face suspension or cancellation of this permit.

(e) The permittee will not allow owned or controlled livestock to be upon any area of Forest Service-administered lands not described in either Part 1 hereof or the annual Bill for Collection.

(f) The Forest officer in charge may, at any time, place or fasten or require the permittee to place or fasten upon livestock covered by this permit appropriate marks or tags that will identify them as livestock permitted to graze on lands administered by the Forest Service. When requested by the Forest officer, the permittee will, at any time during the permitted period of use, including entry and removal dates, gather permitted livestock to enable an accurate count to be

made thereof. The Forest Service may, at its option, gather and hold for counting all livestock grazing on the allotment.

(g) Only livestock marked, tagged, or branded as shown in the application upon which this permit is based, and as may be required under Section 8(f), will be allowed to graze under this permit unless the permittee has advance written approval from the Forest officer in charge to do otherwise.

(h) 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.

(i) This permit is issued and accepted with the provision that the permittee will maintain all range improvements, whether private or Government-owned, that are assigned for maintenance to standards of repair, orderliness, and safety acceptable to the Forest Service. Improvements to be maintained and acceptable to maintenance are specified in Part 3 of this permit. The Government may maintain or otherwise improve said improvements when, in its opinion, such action will be to its advantage.

9. Nonuse. At least 90 percent of the livestock permitted must be grazed each year, unless the Forest officer in charge approves nonuse. Failure to place livestock on the allotted range/pasture without approved nonuse may result in cancellation of the term grazing permit in whole or in part.

10. Protection. The permittee, or the permittees' agents and employees, when acting within the scope of their employment, and contractors and subcontractors will protect the land and property of the United States and other land under jurisdiction of the Forest Service covered by and used in conjunction with this permit. Protection will include taking all reasonable precautions to prevent, make diligent efforts to suppress, and report promptly all fires on or endangering such land and property. The permittee will pay the United States for any damage to its land or property, including range improvements, resulting from negligence or from violation of the provisions and requirements of this permit or any law or regulation applicable to the National Forests System.

11. General

(a) The Forest officer in charge may at any time require the permittee to give good and sufficient bond to insure payment for all damage or costs to prevent or mitigate damages sustained by the United States through the permittee's failure to comply with the provisions and requirements of this permit or the regulations of the Secretary on which it is based.

(b) This permit will be cancelled, in whole or in part, whenever the area described in this permit is withdrawn from the National Forest System by land exchange, modification of boundaries, or otherwise, or whenever the area described in this permit is to be devoted to a public purpose that precludes grazing.

(c) The permittee will immediately notify the Forest officer in charge of any change in control of base property, ownership of livestock, or other qualifications to hold this grazing permit.

(d) The permanent improvements constructed or existing for use in conjunction with this permit are the property of the United States Government unless specifically designated otherwise or covered by a cooperative agreement. They will not be removed nor compensated for upon cancellation of this permit, except in the National Forests in the 16 contiguous Western States when cancelled, in whole or in part, to devote land to another public purpose including disposal. In the event of such cancellation on the National Forests in the 16 Contiguous Western States, the permittee will be compensated for the adjusted value of approved range improvements installed or placed by him.

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

Application Instructions:
If you are interested in applying for any of these term grazing permits and you meet all the qualifications listed in the solicitation, please complete the **Applicant Evaluation Criteria** and please submit the required documentation. Return them to the Colville National Forest Supervisor's Office, 765 South Main Street, Colville, WA 99114 by December 31, 2026. Applications should be addressed ATTN: Brandon Weinmann. Information contained in the permit application will be used to determine qualified applicants. Answers from the questionnaire will be used to evaluate applicants and select a preferred candidate, *so please provide detailed responses to all the questions.*

A copy of the solicitation, application, questionnaire, and maps of the allotments, can be obtained by visiting the Colville National Forest Website at this location: https://www.fs.usda.gov/r06/colville/natural-resources/range

If you have questions or need additional information for this process, please call Brandon Weinmann, Range/Invasive Plants Program Manager, at (509) 684-7225.

Enclosure #1

Colville National Forest Applicant Evaluation Criteria

1. How do you meet the eligibility and qualification requirements to hold a term grazing permit and/or meet the requirements to be considered a beginning rancher:
    a. Has not owned, controlled, or operated a farm or ranch for a period of more than 10 years.
    b. Has not previously held a Forest Service term grazing permit.

2. Provide documentation of owned qualifying base property and registered brands that authorized livestock would have.

3. Describe your experience with the construction and maintenance of rangeland improvements (fences, water developments, corrals).

4. Provide details outlining your ability to manage your livestock to meet on/off dates, pasture rotations, and allowable use standards of forage.

5. Do you have experience with rangeland monitoring (utilization, stubble height, photo points, etc....) and are you willing to work cooperatively with the Forest Service to meet resource objectives?

6. How would this opportunity fit into your overall ranch operation?

7. Describe how you will coordinate operations around recreation uses or special uses.

8. Provide 2 references (with contact information) for grazing permits or leases you currently hold or have previously held.