

Attachment 1, Section B - Topics to inform and discuss with the person that is considering the relinquishment of their grazing preference:

1. The BLM's receipt or administrative processing of a relinquishment is not a decision to remove livestock grazing on the allotment(s) for which the operator had preference and permitted use. The BLM uses the Land Use Plan (LUP) process to decide upon land management goals and objectives and how uses and activities will be managed to achieve these goals and objectives.
2. The forage made available due to the relinquishment will be allocated to other grazing use applicants (43 CFR 4110) provided that BLM has determined through a land health evaluation and determination (43 CFR 4180), that the forage is available on a sustained yield basis for livestock grazing and that such use conforms to the decisions of the land use plan.
3. The BLM has the authority to continue livestock grazing activity even if a relinquishment is accepted. The BLM may offer alternative options to maintain grazing such as implementation of a revised grazing management plan, a permitted use reduction or suspension, and/or temporary nonuse. Such actions would allow the current preference holder to retain some or all of their forage allocation and afford them the opportunity to resume livestock grazing while still providing for resource recovery.
4. The BLM will address the interest and obligation that the relinquishing party has in range improvements constructed under Cooperative Range Improvement Agreements or Range Improvement Permits as part of the relinquishment process. In most cases, prior to obtaining preference, the relinquishing party accepted interest in and maintenance responsibility for specific range improvements located on public lands within their area of use. The relinquishing party may also have interest in range improvements located on lands they own or lease within their area of use. The relinquishing party may hold water rights for specific range improvement projects within their area of use and upon the relinquishment may lose their ability to prove beneficial use. All of these issues will be addressed and understood prior to processing the relinquishment. To address such issues, the BLM will obtain a written agreement that specifies which range improvements will be removed, how the affected area will be rehabilitated, and details of the dispossession of livestock watering rights to preserve them for future management needs.
4. After-the-fact billing or other issues not directly pertinent to grazing management (e.g. rights-of-way) will be addressed and resolved prior to the authorized officer processing the relinquishment.