

TITLE 58  
PUBLIC LANDS

CHAPTER 15  
RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT ACT

58-1501. SHORT TITLE. This chapter shall be known and may be cited as the "Rangeland Improvement Act."

[58-1501, added 2024, ch. 47, sec. 1, p. 254.]

58-1502. DEFINITIONS. (1) "Cooperative weed management area" means a multi-governmental association cooperating to control noxious weeds in a geographic area that includes some portion of Idaho.

(2) "Department" means the Idaho state department of agriculture.

(3) "Fees" means the revenue collected by the United States secretary of the interior from assessments on livestock using public lands.

(4) "Grazing district" means an administrative unit of land:

(a) Designated by the director of the department as valuable for grazing and for raising forage crops; and

(b) That consists of any combination of the following:

(i) Public lands;

(ii) Private land;

(iii) State land; and

(iv) Endowment land.

(5) "Public lands" means vacant, unappropriated, reserved, and unreserved federal lands.

(6) "Rangeland improvement account" means the account created in section [58-1504](#), Idaho Code.

(7) "Sales" or "leases" means the sale or lease, respectively, of isolated or disconnected tracts of public lands by the United States secretary of the interior.

[58-1502, added 2024, ch. 47, sec. 1, p. 254.]

58-1503. GRAZING BOARD CENTRAL COMMITTEE -- OVERSIGHT. (1) The Idaho state department of agriculture shall carry out the provisions of this chapter. The department is authorized to seek appropriation and to receive contributions, gifts, and grants for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this chapter. The grazing board central committee provided for in section [57-1205](#), Idaho Code, shall make recommendations to the department.

(2) In addition to those members serving on the grazing board central committee, the governor shall appoint two (2) additional members who are livestock producers from nominations made by the Idaho cattle association and the Idaho wool growers association. The two (2) additional members shall serve at large on the board and their terms shall be for two (2) years. The two (2) livestock producer members shall serve at the pleasure of the governor. If any livestock producer member's seat is vacated, the governor shall appoint a replacement to serve out the vacated term from nominations received from the Idaho cattle association and the Idaho wool growers association.

(3) Regional boards as provided for in section [57-1204](#), Idaho Code, shall provide advice and recommendations to the grazing board central committee.

[58-1503, added 2024, ch. 47, sec. 1, p. 255.]

58-1504. RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT -- ADMINISTERED BY DEPARTMENT. (1) There is hereby established in the state treasury an account to be known as the rangeland improvement account.

(2) The account shall consist of moneys received by the state from sales, leases, fees, grants, or appropriations from the state or federal government, and grants from private foundations. Interest earned on moneys in the account shall be retained in the account.

(3) The department shall administer the account and distribute account moneys in accordance with section [58-1505](#), Idaho Code.

[58-1504, added 2024, ch. 47, sec. 1, p. 255.]

58-1505. RANGELAND IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT DISTRIBUTIONS. (1) The department shall distribute rangeland improvement account moneys as provided in this section.

(a) After the director of the department approves a request from the grazing board central committee, the department shall distribute moneys received by the state under section [58-1504](#), Idaho Code, from fees based on the amount of revenue generated from the imposition of fees. The grazing board central committee shall expend moneys received in accordance with subsection (2) of this section.

(b) The department shall distribute or expend moneys received by the state under section [58-1504](#), Idaho Code, from grants or appropriations from the state or federal government and grants from private foundations for the purposes outlined in subsection (2) of this section. The department may require entities seeking funding from grants or appropriations from the state or federal government and grants from private foundations to provide matching funds.

(2) The department shall ensure that account distributions or expenditures under subsection (1) of this section are used for:

- (a) Rangeland improvement and maintenance;
- (b) The control of predatory and depredating animals;
- (c) The control, management, or extermination of invading species, rangeland damaging organisms, and poisonous or noxious weeds;
- (d) Any other management tool that benefits a grazing district;
- (e) Watershed protection, development, distribution, and improvement;
- (f) The general welfare of livestock grazing within a grazing district; and
- (g) Subject to subsection (3) of this section, costs to monitor rangeland improvement projects.

(3) Annual account distributions or expenditures for costs to monitor rangeland improvement projects may not exceed ten percent (10%) of the annual receipts of the account.

[58-1505, added 2024, ch. 47, sec. 1, p. 255.]

58-1506. AUDIT OF GRAZING DISTRICTS. The legislative services office audits division is authorized to coordinate with the department of the interior in auditing the books of the advisory boards.

[58-1506, added 2024, ch. 47, sec. 1, p. 256.]

58-1507. DISTRIBUTION OF UNDISTRIBUTED FUNDS. If the United States alters or discontinues funding under the Taylor grazing act, or the operation of advisory boards, leaving funds or other resources undistributed or otherwise without means for continuation, the director of the department shall supervise and control the distribution of such undistributed funds or other resources.

[58-1507, added 2024, ch. 47, sec. 1, p. 256.]

58-1508. PROMOTION OF MULTIPLE-USE MANAGEMENT OF RANGELAND RESOURCES. (1) The department shall work cooperatively to promote efficient multiple-use management of the rangeland resources of the lands administered by the federal bureau of land management, the United States forest service, and other lands to benefit the overall public interest.

(2) The department may serve as an independent resource for mediating disputes concerning permit issues within the scope of subsection (1) of this section.

[58-1508, added 2024, ch. 47, sec. 1, p. 256.]