



**RESOLUTION
OF THE
WIND RIVER INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL**



**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-12120
NABC RESOLUTION NO. NABC-2025-2061**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING GRAZING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR ALL TRIBAL LANDS WITHIN THE BOUNDARIES OF THE WIND RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION.

WHEREAS, the Eastern Shoshone Tribe (“EST”) and the Northern Arapaho Tribe (“NAT”) (collectively “Tribes”) are separate sovereign, federally-recognized Indian Tribes with inherent sovereign authority and the right to exercise self-determination and self-governance and the inherent sovereign authority to create, charter, and delegate authority to tribal and inter-tribal organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Eastern Shoshone Business Council (“ESBC”) and the Northern Arapaho Business Council (“NABC”) are the duly elected governing bodies of their respective Tribes and are authorized by a vote of their respective Tribal citizens to conduct the day-to-day governmental operations and set the policy and procedure for their respective Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Wind River Inter-Tribal Council (“WRITC”) is a body created April 17, 2017, by the NABC and the ESBC through the approval of the Wind River Inter-Tribal Accord and further defined through the June 25, 2019, approval of the Wind River Memorandum of Understanding for the Management and Oversight of Shared Tribal Programs and Resources within the Wind River Indian Reservation (“Reservation”) and is authorized under the laws of the Tribes and the federal law to manage the joint affairs and assets of the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the ESBC and NABC have been functioning as the WRITC for the purpose of working collaboratively to manage shared assets and programs on the Reservation; and

WHEREAS, the WRITC is composed of the NABC and the ESBC and any action taken by the WRITC requires a majority vote of each Tribe’s Business Council; and

WHEREAS, the WRITC, on behalf of the NABC and the ESBC, has the duty and obligation to provide for the health, safety and wellbeing of the citizens of each Tribe; and

WHEREAS, the WRITC recognizes that there is a need to authorize and approve grazing rules and regulations and balance wildlife habitat restoration for the Wind River Indian Reservation to ensure a comprehensive range plan; and

WHEREAS, the WRITC intends to approve the attached grazing policies and procedures for the purpose of establishing a comprehensive range management program to for the Wind River Indian Reservation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wind River Inter-Tribal Council hereby approves this Resolution approving the attached grazing policies and procedures for the Wind River Indian Reservation and approves the attached provisions for a comprehensive range management program.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that the Chairman or Vice-Chairperson of the Eastern Shoshone Business Council and the Chairman or Co-Chairperson of the Northern Arapaho Business Council are delegated the authority and responsibility to sign all documents necessary to initiate this action.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, as the Chairman of the Eastern Shoshone Business Council hereby certifies that the Eastern Shoshone Business Council, consists of six (6) members, of whom five (5) members of the Eastern Shoshone Business Council constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting duly called, noticed, convened, and held this seventeenth (17th) day of December, 2025; that the foregoing resolution was adopted by an affirmative vote of four (4) members of the Eastern Shoshone Business Council, and one (1) member of the Eastern Shoshone voting in opposition, and that the said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Done at Fort Washakie, Wyoming this 17th day of December, 2025.


Wayland K. Large., Chairman
Eastern Shoshone Business Council

Attest:


Carolyn Shoyo, WRITC Executive Secretary

The undersigned, as the Chairman of the Northern Arapaho Business Council hereby certifies that the Northern Arapaho Business Council, consists of six (6) members, of whom four (4) members of the Northern Arapaho Business Council, constituting a quorum, were present at a meeting duly called, noticed, convened, and held this seventeenth (17th) day of December, 2025; that the foregoing resolution was adopted by an affirmative vote of four (4) members of the Northern Arapaho Business Councils, and that the said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

Done at Fort Washakie, Wyoming this 17th day of December, 2025.


Keenan Groesbeck, Chairman
Northern Arapaho Business Council

Attest:


Nora Willow, NABC Executive Assistant

Wind River Indian Reservation Grazing Policies and Procedures

Approved by Wind River Inter-Tribal Council

Resolution No. 2025-12120

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of these grazing policies and procedures is to describe the authorities, policies, and procedures used by the Eastern Shoshone Tribe ("EST"), the Northern Arapaho Tribe ("NAT"), (collectively, the "Tribes") and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Wind River Agency ("BIA") to approve, grant, and administer permits for grazing on tribal lands within the boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation. These policies aim to ensure farming and grazing operations are conducted in accordance with sustained yield management, integrated resource management planning, sound conservation practices, and a comprehensive range management plan.
2. **Duration of the permit period.** Grazing privileges will be authorized for a (five) 5-year period for enrolled members of the Tribes beginning January 1, 2026, to December 31, 2031.
3. **Eligibility for Non-Competitive Grazing Permits.**
 - a. **Age.** Only enrolled members of the Tribes aged eighteen (18) or older are eligible for a non-competitive grazing permit ("Permit"). Permits will **not** automatically renew
 - b. **Family Units:** Family Unit Permits may also be issued where a "family" refers to an extended household, **mother/father/children/grandparents/and other direct blood relatives** being enrolled members of the Tribes.
 - c. **Residency.** Permittees must reside within the exterior boundaries of the Wind River Indian Reservation, including trust lands, for at least twelve (12) months prior to applying. Exceptions for armed forces members or students may be granted with approval from the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Business Councils or a designated committee.
4. **Livestock.**
 - a. **Ownership of Livestock/Branding.** Individuals and Family Units possessing a Permit ("Permittees") must be the sole owners of the livestock grazed on permitted lands and all brands must be submitted to the BIA and documented on a Permit application or the application will be deemed incomplete. Joint ownership of livestock with non-Indians or spouses that are not enrolled members of the Tribes is prohibited. Brands of children under eighteen (18) that are members of the Tribes may be grazed. **No other brands are allowed without written permission from both the BIA and the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Business Councils.** If ownership is in question, the Permittee must provide proof to the BIA Superintendent and the designated Tribal Livestock Officer.
 - b. **Ear Tags.** Ear tags must be uniform in color, have the brand behind the ear tag or on an additional ear tag, and be documented with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Acceptable documentation includes brand transfers, mortgage or finance documents, and bills of sale approved by a State Brand Inspector. A Permittee with livestock exhibiting their own brand

is presumed the sole owner. **A Permittee who has been found not to be the sole owner of livestock more than two (2) times is a Habitual Permittee and must remove the livestock and their permit will be canceled.**

- c. **Assignees.** If a person allocated grazing privileges is an assignee of a tribal assignment, the grazing privileges allocation is contingent on their ability to hold a Grant of Standard Assignment in addition to meeting the requirements of these Policies and Procedures. Failure to meet these requirements will disqualify the assignee from holding the Grant of Standard Assignment.
- d. **Leasing.** Unless otherwise provided in these Policies and Procedures, Permittees may **not** lease livestock.
- e. **Kinds of Livestock.** Permits will be issued for cattle and buffalo. Buffalo restored by the Tribes, and managed in partnership of the Wind River Tribal Buffalo Initiative, are “contained wildlife” on designated fee and tribal lands acquired and prioritized respectively as habitat with assistance of the Shoshone and Arapaho Tribal Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- f. **Size of Permit.** The maximum livestock per Permittee, including Family Units, is three hundred-fifty (350) head. The Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Business Councils will determine the specific number for each permit. Livestock exceeding the permit limit must be pastured elsewhere.
- g. **Stocking Permit.** Unused AUMs may result in the unfilled portion being advertised, unless granted a waiver by the Eastern Shoshone and the Northern Arapaho Business Councils.
- h. **Bulls.** One (1) registered Hereford, Angus, or Limousin bull is required for every thirty (30) cows or heifers (or fraction thereof). Other breeds may be approved for specific range units with evaluation by the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Business Councils or their designated committee, and 100% agreement from Permittees. Documentation of breed will be required to be submitted to the BIA with the BIA obtaining agreement or disagreement from all other Permittees before submitting to the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Business Councils for evaluation and approval. Permits will be canceled for turning out unauthorized bulls. No bull may graze the same land for more than three (3) years. If a bull is deemed unserviceable by other Permittees, it will be evaluated by a veterinarian at the owner's expense and reviewed by the BIA.
- i. **Disease Control.** All livestock must comply with current and future disease control laws and regulations of the U.S. Government, the State of Wyoming adopted as Tribal requirements, and the Eastern Shoshone and Northern Arapaho Business Councils or a designated committee. Livestock testing documentation must be submitted to the BIA annually before any livestock is released onto a range unit. Testing is required for all bulls prior to them going onto a range unit.

5. **Maintenance of Rangelands and Range Improvements.** Rangeland maintenance must follow Best Management Practices (“BMPs”) set by the BIA while balancing objectives for wildlife and habitat

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established in the Wind River Indian Reservation Agricultural Resource Management Plan (“ARMP”). The top six BMPs for tribal rangeland management are:

- a. Herding: Use herding techniques to spread livestock evenly across rangeland, encouraging grazing in underutilized areas to avoid overgrazing.
 - b. Strategic Placement of Supplements: Place salt and supplements in areas where grazing is desired, away from archeological sites, water sources, and heavily used areas. Herding should ensure livestock graze near these locations.
 - c. Water Resource Management: Regularly inventory and assess water facilities to ensure they support efficient livestock distribution across the rangeland.
 - d. Grazing Rotation: Implement rotational grazing to allow vegetation recovery and maintain range health.
 - e. Invasive Species Control: Actively manage and reduce invasive species to protect native vegetation and biodiversity.
 - f. BIA will supply permittees with grazing land management techniques based on the range unit and its conditions.
6. **Responsibilities of Permittees.** Permittees are required to repair and maintain all range unit improvements, including but not limited to: boundary and cross fences, pipelines, water control structures, wells, and watering devices. Failure to fulfill these responsibilities will result in enforcement actions including possible Permit cancellation. The obligation to repair and maintain all range unit improvements rests solely with the Permittee(s) based on their percentage of range unit use and permittee size.
- a. **BIA Fence Material Usage.** Permittees are strictly required to use materials provided by the BIA for the following purposes:
 1. Construction and maintenance of boundary fences between range units.
 2. Construction and maintenance of drift and cross fences within range units.
 3. Repair of fences on idle leases where lack of livestock control presents a public safety hazard.
 4. Cooperation with federal and state agencies on fence repairs along the Wind River Indian Reservation boundary.
 - b. **Assignee Responsibilities.** The Eastern Shoshone Business Council, the Northern Arapaho Business Council, or the Wind River Inter-Tribal Council (“WRITC”) will not supply fencing materials to assignees. Assignees are solely responsible for maintaining assignment fences as

required under their agreement. Non-compliance will result in penalties or termination of the assignment.

7. **Tribal grazing rentals.**

- a. The minimum annual grazing rental shall be **\$1.30** per AUM.

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8. **Allotted grazing rentals.** The minimum recommended annual rental shall be determined by an appraisal conducted by the Office of Appraisals.

- a. The Shoshone and Arapaho Tribes agree to charge \$1.30 per aum for their undivided interest portion of ownership in allotted lands.

9. **Bonds.** Bonds will be required on range units provided the Permittees are in compliance with all permit terms and these Policies and Procedures. An annual review will be conducted to determine if bonds may be required on range permits at the discretion of the BIA Superintendent.

10. **Compliance.** Eligibility requirements and compliance with all the provisions of these Policies and Procedures must be maintained for the period covered by the permit. The BIA will serve a Permittee written notice of non-compliance and provide ten (10) days to show cause as to why their permit(s) should not be cancelled. The Permittee and the livestock owner must be served a trespass notice for any livestock in trespass.

11. **Wildlife Habitat Management** Wildlife habitat management coincides with rangeland on the Wind River Indian Reservation and Shoshone and Arapaho Fish and Game and U.S. Fish and Wildlife will work to protect and improve wildlife and fish habitats while maintaining and developing riparian areas.